The Madras Cricket Club

1848 – 1968

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THE MADRAS CRICKET CLUB

GAZETTEER UNIT
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE BUILDINGS, MADRAS-8

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1848 - 1968

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CHEPAUK, MADRAS

The Madras Cricket Club

CHEPAUK, MADRAS-5

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CONTENTS

Foreword	*P. G. V. Mercer*	...	3
Committee Members		...	4
Messages		...	5
Chepauk	*Vijay Merchant*	...	17
Some Englishmen in Madras	*Irving Rosenwater*	...	19
Anglo-Indian Memories	*G. D. Martineau*	...	22
The Heritage of Chepauk	*V. Pattabhiraman*	...	24
Reminiscences	*C. P. Johnstone*	...	29
Chepauk and I	*A. G. Ram Singh*	...	31
Highlights of Cricket in Chepauk	*M. J. Gopalan*	...	33
The M. C. C. in Retrospect	*C. R. Pattabhi Raman*	...	35
Madras, M. C. C., and its contribution to Cricket, Tennis and Hockey in Madras	*C. Ramaswami*	...	37
A Conversation with Krishnan	*T. M. Srinivasan*	...	42
The Analysis of a Catch	*P. N. Sundaresan*	...	44
Letter from J. O. G. Barnes		...	47
Thoughts on Chepauk	*R. S. Modi*	...	48
My Memories of Chepauk	*Vijay Hazare*	...	49
Let us Play Cricket	*Bertie Wijesinhe*	...	50
Memories of M. C. C. ground, Chepauk	*C. R. Rangachari*	...	52
Chepauk Memories	*K. S. Ranga Rao*	...	55
Chepauk Chronicle	*T. M. Srinivasan*	...	60
Chepauk Hockey	*P. D. Calappa*	...	65
Biographical Sketches	*T. M. Srinivasan*	...	67

GAZETTEER UNIT
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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE BUILDINGS

Cricket at Chepauk in the 1880's.

FOREWORD

It may be asked why the Madras Cricket Club should have chosen to celebrate the 120th year of its existence, an unusual anniversary to commemorate. The answer is that the Centenary seems to have passed unnoticed and when this was pointed out to the committee earlier this year, they felt the sooner the omission was rectified, the better. Hence the decision to celebrate our 120th Anniversary.

In addition to a programme of social and sporting events, it was thought we should provide our members with some more permanent reminder of this important occasion in the life of their Club.

The committee decided that this should take the form of a souvenir and history of the Club based on the Club records and the reminiscences of members and others associated with Chepauk.

An appeal for material for the souvenir book brought a very generous response, and we soon found ourselves in possession of a wealth of useful and interesting information concerning the Club and its activities and cricket in Madras and India generally.

To have adhered to our original idea of a history of the Club would have made it difficult to include much of the material sent to us, all of which we felt deserved to be collated and recorded in a permanent form.

We decided, therefore, that instead of a souvenir volume containing only a detailed history of the Club, we would, wherever possible, publish the articles sent to us in their entirety as an anthology. In the case of information sent otherwise than in the form of a complete article, the material contributed has been used by Mr. T. M. Srinivasan in compiling his account of the history of the Club.

The contents of the Souvenir book make interesting and entertaining reading and we are extremely grateful to all those who have contributed articles and information and otherwise assisted in the preparation and publication of this volume.

Besides the authors of the articles published in the book, mention must be made of Mr. J. D. Foster, Mr. V. Pattabhiraman and Mr. P. N. Sundaresan who supplied much of the information on which Mr. T. M. Srinivasan's history of the Club is based, the Editor of The Hindu, who not only supplied information regarding cricket at Chepauk but also made available many of the photographs contained in the book; Mr. Ranga Rao, of the Indian Express, who, besides giving us the benefit of his long-standing knowledge of the affairs of the Club, has assisted greatly in the work of preparing this book.

I acknowledge especially the part played by our Hony. Secretary, Mr. T. M. Srinivasan, who not only has written the history of the Club and edited the Souvenir volume, but was also the inspiration for the suggestion that the 120th Anniversary should be celebrated. He is a complete 'Chepauk man', dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the interests of the Club. It is this way in which our Club lays hold of the affections of its Members, which has brought it forward from its small beginnings one hundred and twenty years ago to the popular and thriving institution which it is today, playing a useful and important role in the social and sporting life of our city.

I am confident that the men who founded the Club in those far off days would be thoroughly satisfied at the way in which the best sporting traditions have been carefully preserved and nourished at Chepauk, so that they are flourishing here today as well as ever they did.

If we, the present Members, vigilantly guard those traditions and pass them on to our successors as scrupulously as they were handed on to us, there is no reason at all why the Club's second one hundred and twenty years should not be as successful and memorable as the one hundred and twenty years we are now commemorating.

P. G. V. MERCER,

President, The M. C. C.

THE MADRAS CRICKET CLUB

Patron :

H. E. SARDAR UJJAL SINGH
Governor of Madras

President :

P. G. V. MERCER Esq.

Vice-President :

P. D. CALAPPA Esq.

Hon. Secretary :

T. M. SRINIVASAN Esq.

Hon. Treasurer :

S. R. SUBRAMANIAM Esq.

General Committee :

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C. CHALAM Esq.
P. N. CLUBWALA Esq.
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H. M. SAIT Esq.
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P. R. NARAYANAN Esq. (Hockey)
M. V. G. APPA RAO Esq. (Tennis)

Souvenir Sub - Committee :

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V. PATTABHIRAMAN Esq.
K. S. RANGA RAO Esq.
P. N. SUNDARESAN Esq.
P. G. V. MERCER Esq.
T. M. SRINIVASAN Esq.

Sir R. D. Richmond who presided over the destinies of the club from 1931-1940—and was President of both M. C. C. & M.C.A.

SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN,
NEW DELHI-4.

November 15th, 1968.

Dear Shri Srinivasan,

The President is glad to learn from your letter of the 12th November, 1968, that the Madras Cricket Club will celebrate its 120th Anniversary from the 14th December, 1968. He sends his best wishes for the success of the celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

NAGENDRA SINGH

Shri T. M. Srinivasan,
Honorary Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras.

VICE - PRESIDENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI

15th November 1968.

Dear Shri Srinivasan,

Thank you for your letter of the 12th instant.

I send my best wishes for the success of the 120th Anniversary celebrations of your Club.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) V. V. GIRI

Shri T. M. Srinivasan,
Hon. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras.

"Girija",
30, Edward Elliot Road,
MYLAPORE, MADRAS-4.

November 1, 1968.

Thiru T. M. Srinivasan,
Honorary Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras-5.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to acknowledge your letter of the 28th October, 1968. He sends his good wishes for the success of the 120th Anniversary Celebrations of the Madras Cricket Club.

Yours faithfully,

C. RAMASUBBAN
P. S. to Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI-11.

November 7, 1968

Dear Sir,

The Prime Minister thanks you for your letter and wishes success to the 120th anniversary celebrations of the Madras Cricket Club being held next month.

Yours faithfully,

H. Y. SHARADA PRASAD
Deputy Information Adviser
to the Prime Minister

Shri T. M. Srinivasan,
Hon. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras.

Raj Bhavan,
Madras-22
7th November, 1968.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Governor to acknowledge with thanks your letter dated the 2nd November and to convey his best wishes for the success of the 120th anniversary celebrations of the Madras Cricket Club.

Yours faithfully,

N. NATARAJAN,
Assistant Secretary,
Madras Governor's Secretariat.

Dr. C. N. ANNADURAI
CHIEF MINISTER

FORT ST. GEORGE,
MADRAS

November 19, 1968

I am glad to note that the Madras Cricket Club is completing 120 years of its useful existence. It has done much to encourage the game of cricket and the many historic matches that have been played at the Madras Cricket Club grounds have enthused the cricket fans in Tamilnad and outside.

I wish the celebration all success.

(Sd.) C. N. ANNADURAI

The Hony. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk,
Madras-5.

V. R. NEDUNCHEZHIYAN,
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND INDUSTRIES

FORT ST. GEORGE,
MADRAS-9.

16th Nov., 1968.

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Madras Cricket Club will hold the 120th Anniversary celebrations for a week in December 1968. The Club has completed more than a hundred years of useful service and there is no doubt that it will continue to do so in the years to come. I send my best wishes for the success of the function.

(Sd.) V. R. NEDUNCHEZHIYAN

Sri T. M. Srinivasan,
Hony. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras-5.

MESSAGE

November 19, 1968.

To

The Hon. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras-5.

Greetings and congratulation to Madras Cricket Club. While Centenaries are rare Madras Cricket Club should be proud of celebrating its 120th Anniversary.

Madras Cricket Club, I believe, was exclusively for Europeans till the thirties. But I came into contact with some stalwarts of the Club in the twenties-Sir Robert Denniston, E.K. Shattock and R. B. Carrick. During the past four decades, I have had the privilege of witnessing several very interesting cricket matches at Chepauk grounds both of visiting foreign teams and first class fixtures.

Chepauk ground has been hallowed by tradition. The Presidency Cricket matches during the Pongal holidays were always looked forward to by every cricket lover in South India. I only wish we had fixtures of the type every year on the Chepauk grounds. The Presidency Cricket fixtures recall to one's mind the names of M/s, Ward, Johnstone, C. K. Naidu, Musthaq Ali and many other cricketers.

On behalf of the Mysore State Cricket Association and on my own behalf, I send you my warmest felicitations.

President .
THE MYSORE STATE CRICKET ASSN.
CENTRAL COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSN.
BANGALORE-9.

S. A. SRINIVASAN

November 21, 1968

To

T. M. Srinivasan Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
The Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras-5.

Dear Mr. Srinivasan,

I have just received your letter of 12th November 1968 addressed to me to the Lakshmibai College of Physical Education, Gwalior.

You have asked me for my views about the part your Club played in fostering sportsmanship in general and the game of cricket in particular.

As an individual may I say what a fine part your Club has played all these years in promoting sports in general and the game of Cricket in particular. I have happy memories of my playing against your Club way back in 1917-1918 when I was the Captain of the Presidency College Cricket Team. I am happy to know that you are celebrating the 120th Anniversary of your Club in December. I do hope your Club will continue to keep up its great traditions as high as ever.

I send you all my best wishes and blessings for a successful celebration of your Club's 120th Anniversary. May God bless you.

Yours sincerely,
K. M. CARIAPPA.

ROSHANARA, MERCARA,
COORG, S. INDIA.

To

The Hon. Secretary
The Madras Cricket Club
Chepauk, Madras-5.

10—11—1968

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to send warm greetings and best wishes from M C.C. to the members of the Madras Cricket Club on the occasion of your 120th Anniversary.

Many M C.C. touring teams have had the pleasure of playing on your fine ground, which was the venue of India's first victory over England in 1952.

I have no doubt that Madras will be the scene of much fine cricket in future years, and I hope, in particular, that your 120th Anniversary will be a successful and happy one.

MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB
LORD'S GROUND, LONDON, N.W. 8

S. C. GRIFFITH,
Secretary, M.C.C.

December 3, 1968

Dear Mr. Srinivasan,

I am delighted to know that the M. C. C. will be celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Club.

As a member of the Club and as one connected with the Madras Cricket Association for over two decades, I wish to pay my tribute to the Madra Cricket Club for the great contribution it has made to sports in general and cricket in particular.

Chepauk has hoary traditions and many a Test match has been staged there and the Club has played its part in maintenance and upkeep of the beautiful Chepauk ground.

In the early nineties the staging of the annual Presidency match between Europeans and Indians was a popular event; which attracted large crowds and it laid the foundation for the future of cricket in Madras State.

The annual hockey tournament staged by the M.C.C. which used to attract the leading teams from all over the country was equally popular.

It is my desire with the co-operation of the Madras Cricket Club and the Madras Cricket Association, to build a beautiful cricket stadium at Chepauk with its great tradition as a Test Centre.

I take this opportunity of soliciting the co-operation of the members of the Madras Cricket Club in our endeavour to erect a Stadium, which has been a long-felt need in our city.

I wish the Madras Cricket Club all success in the years to come.

MADRAS. M. A. CHIDAMBARAM

To

T. M. Srinivasan Esq.,
Hon. Secretary,
The Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk, Madras-5.

18th November, 1968

Dear Mr. Srinivasan,

I acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 1st November regarding your 120th Anniversary Celebrations in December.

Whilst your invitation for me to be with you during the celebrations is very much appreciated, I regret that it will not be possible for me to make the journey.

However, on behalf of the Calcutta Cricket and Football Club (as we are now known) I send you congratulations and warmest good wishes for the success of your Anniversary Celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

R. NICE

President,

Calcutta Cricket & Football Club.

To

T. M. SRINIVASAN Esq.,

Hon. Secretary,

The Madras Cricket Club,

Chepauk, Madras-5.

"Cricket House",
254, GEORGE STREET,
SYDNEY, N. S. W.

November 26, 1968.

The Hon. Secretary,
Madras Cricket Club,
Chepauk,
MADRAS.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 1st November and I regret that I shall be unable to be present in Madras during your celebrations, but nevertheless I have pleasure in subscribing my congratulations to the Madras Cricket Club on its 120th Anniversary and in wishing it every success in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. PARISH
Chairman,
Australian Board of Control
for International Cricket.

I. O. B.'S COMMON BOND WITH M. C. C.

"Play up and Play the Game"

With great delight, we convey our warm greetings to the members of the Madras Cricket Club who will be celebrating the Club's 120th Anniversary. The 'M.C.C.', as the Club is popularly called, has rendered great service to the cause of sports and games. We are happy to be associated with the celebrations of this land-mark in the Club's history, through this message, and wish them a glorious future.

Yours in service,

The Indian Overseas Bank Limited

CHEPAUK

VIJAY MERCHANT

CHEPAUK of hallowed memory! One of the lovely grounds in the world. It has a beautiful setting with tall trees around it. It has been my privilege to tread on its even and green grass, which has a springy feeling.

Chepauk has not been very kind to me in the matter of runs. I have played on it on four occasions, my highest score being only 72-in my last innings there. As Captain of Indian Elevens, however, I have been more fortunate. We beat Lord Tennyson's team in 1937-38 and the Australian Services Eleven in 1945-46.

The incident which will remain ever-green in my memory, so far as Chepauk is concerned, took place when I played there last. That was in January 1951, against the Second Commonwealth Team. In the absence of Leslie Ames, Frank Worrell captained the side.

I won the toss and elected to bat. Consistent batting, helped by a century by Umrigar and an 80 by Hazare, enabled us to reach the respectable total of 361. Commonwealth responded very well and totalled 393. Ikin made 110, Emmett 96 and Worrell was run out for 71. Phadkar captured 5 wickets and Mankad 4.

In the 2nd innings when I had reached 50, a youngster came along to garland me. I refused the garland and told the umpire to intervene. I am one of those extremely few who believe that the spectator must remain on his side of the fence and not encroach on the field of play thereby disturbing the concentration of the batsman. Many a match has been lost because of such interference. I told the youngster to come to the dressing room in the evening when I would not only accept his garland but have a photograph taken with him. The youngster would not listen and so the Umpire had to send him away.

This infuriated a section of the crowd who started barracking and hooting me. With every ball they shouted "get out, bowled" etc. This did not disturb me and I carried on. At one stage, in a light-hearted manner I indicated to that section by a gesture of the hands that someone from there should go and bowl to me to get me out. I realized later that even in a lighter vein this was uncalled for and I should not have done it. I take this opportunity of apologizing to those who were on the ground for my uncalled-for behaviour.

Ultimately at 72, I was caught by the wicket keeper off Shackleton. It was not a good innings by any means and had very little merit about it except that it helped to swell my side's total to 302 for 5 wickets at which stage I declared the innings closed.

The same evening I realized that I owed an explanation to the sporting crowd of Madras who had misunderstood my gesture in not accepting the garland. I thereupon went to the late Mr. S. K. Gurunathan and asked him if he would take a statement from me about the incident. He immediately agreed and the same was published the next morning (the last day of the match) in "The Hindu".

Therein I explained to the crowd my point of view as a cricketer. I related one incident

in which Khandu Rangnekar was disturbed by a man kissing him on both cheeks when completing his double-century and was out off the third ball immediately afterwards. That wicket cost us a memorable match in 1939-40 against Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy Championship when Maharashtra made 675 and Bombay replied with 650. I also explained what I had told the youngster about bringing the garland to me in the dressing room at the end of the day and that I would get myself photographed with him.

Further, I asked the spectators whether they would appreciate the kind of fencing that we had in the Brabourne Stadium to keep the crowd from encroaching on the field of play and disturbing the cricketers.

And finally I stated that publicly I had more than once mentioned in Bombay and elsewhere that the cricket crowd of Madras was the most intelligent and educated of any centre in India and that the little incident that had happened did not make me change my opinion about the status and calibre of those who watched cricket at the famous ground at Chepauk.

The statement came right from the heart of one who had, in his humble opinion, done the right thing by cricket and helped to keep the youngsters away from the cricketers when serious matches are played. I felt I had done my duty and explained this to the spectators so that they would at least feel that I was not snobbish or did not value the appreciation of the crowd. Believe me, both during my playing career and even now I am the most accessible of all persons and feel that my cricketing supporters and admirers have treated me in a most generous manner. That they still remember me, 17 years after my retirement from first-class cricket, makes me feel very happy and a little sentimental. They have given me more than what I have given to them.

On the last day after our innings had ended and when I led the Indian Eleven out on the field the sporting crowd of Madras gave me an ovation which I will never forget. On reading my statement they had understood the purpose of the stand that I had taken. Whether they agreed with me or not, they at least then knew that my motive was an excellent one and that I did not want to offend either the youngster or them. I shall never forget the overwhelming ovation which they gave me and to my dying day I shall remember how generous they were on that memorable day.

The devoted ground staff of the M. C. C. responsible for the fine maintenance of the ground.

Some Englishmen in Madras

By IRVING ROSENWATER

★

English cricketers have been playing cricket in Madras since the very beginning of the game there. English-born residents could be found in sizable numbers in all the major towns and cities of India in the nineteenth century when the game made its most significant progress in India. Though the origins of the game in the sub-continent go back to the first quarter of the eighteenth century, the first recorded match in Madras was not until 1792. By any reckoning, however, that is early enough, so Madras as a centre of cricket has a lineage that can compare favourably with any in the world.

When the first English team left London in the autumn of 1889 to play cricket in India, Madras—rather surprisingly—was not on the itinerary. This was G. F. Vernon's team of amateurs—not a specially strong team, but good enough to win ten of their thirteen matches. As the tourists began their programme in Ceylon, it is strange that they should not then have gone on to Madras. Perhaps it was because the Chepauk ground was in a state of flux at the time, a cyclone having caused serious damage to the pavilion a year before. It was condemned as unsafe, and no new pavilion had yet been built when Vernon's team was on tour.

That zestful tourist, Lord Hawke, who had been a member of Vernon's team, took his own side out to India three years later. This time Ceylon again was the first port of call, but Madras now figured most prominently in the fixture-list. Of the four matches played there by Lord Hawke's side in November-December 1892, two were played on the Madras Cricket Club's ground at Chepauk, where the new pavilion had been opened earlier in the year. The club's membership now exceeded 300 and there was much enthusiasm in Madras. His Excellency Lord Wenlock, the then Governor of Madras and a keen supporter of the game and especially of the Madras C.C., was host to Lord Hawke during his visit. Then in his 44th year, Lord Wenlock was still then a practising cricketer, and though never a prominent player he had the distinction more than once while Governor of Madras of opening the innings in minor cricket with the famous Lord Harris, then Governor of Bombay. Lord Wenlock had been President of the Marylebone Cricket Club in 1885.

One of the most able of English cricketers in India at that time was E. H. D. Sewell, who had been born there—in the same month as Ranjitsinhji, under whose captaincy he sometimes played. In due course Sewell was to play county cricket for Essex and do a good deal of writing on the game, both in India and England. Against Lord Hawke's team in Madras he made a fine impression, taking five for 41 for Madras Presidency in the first game and playing an innings of 70 in the second. Lord Hawke always thought most highly of his skill. Sewell performed a great number of remarkable feats in minor matches all over India, in one period of twelve months alone scoring 2,665 runs at an average of 140.26 and taking 152 wickets at 9.5 runs each. A tremendous striker of the ball, on February 1, 1894, he made a measured hit of 147 yards from hit to pitch while playing for Madras v the Cheshire Regiment at Madras. Two years

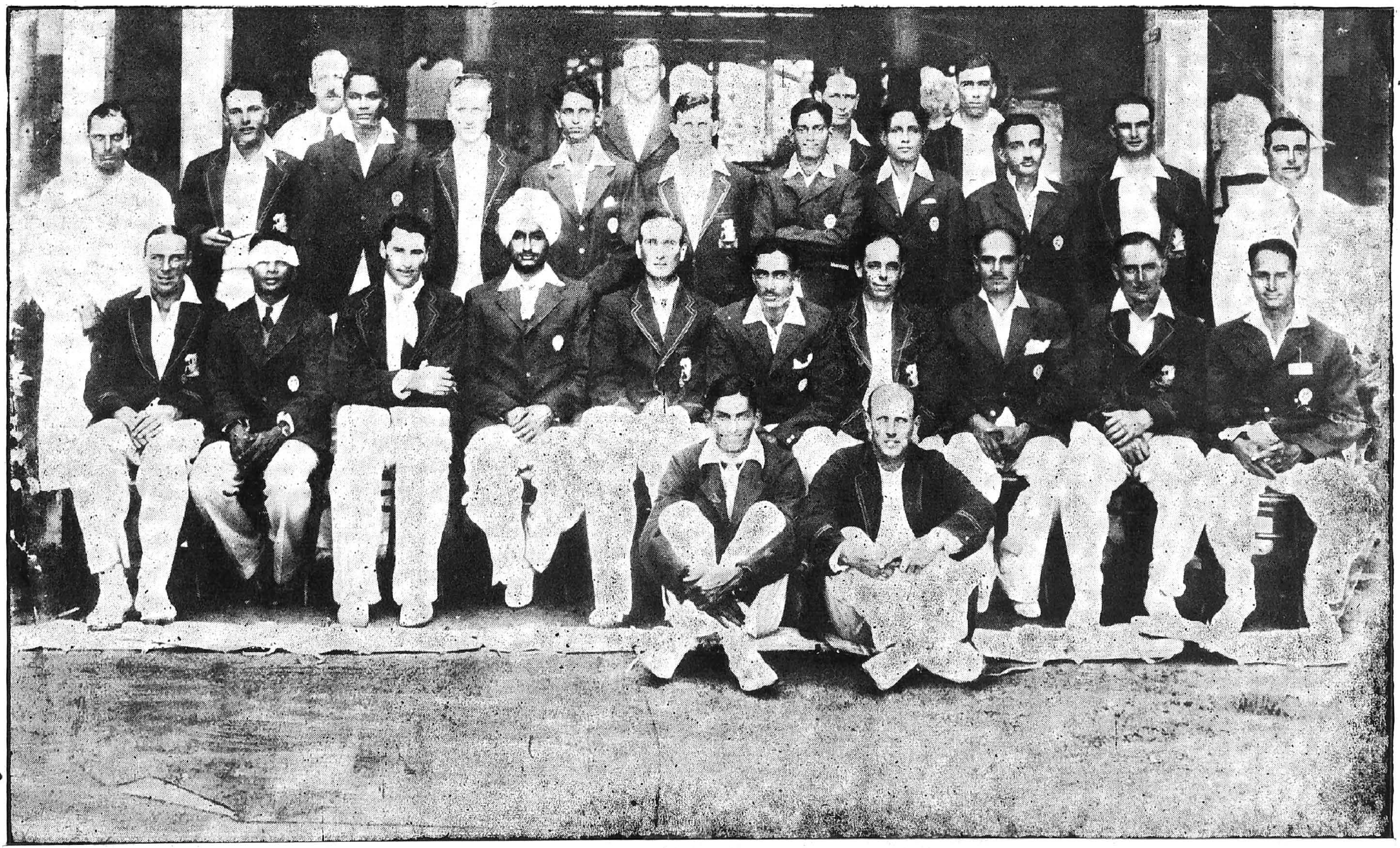
later, for Madras Salt Department v 45th Field Battery, R. A., also at Madras, he scored 74 out of 78 in the first innings and 51 out of 56 in the second. In two successive innings for Madras in 1898 he scored 180 v Shevaroy Hills at Yercaud and 246 v Bellary at Bellary. He then followed this up in his next innings ten days later with 120 for Bangalore v Bellary. He was quite a player.

Sewell had already resigned his post in the Indian Civil Service and had qualified for Essex by the time the next English side appeared in Madras. This was yet another amateur side, the Oxford University Authentics, in 1902-03. They were a strong side and in their only game in Madras they beat Madras Presidency by 109 runs. This was a three-day match played in December 1902, and in the visitor's second innings F. H. Hollins, the Oxford Blue of 1901 and one of a brotherhood of cricketers, made the magnificent score of 185 not out. I believe at that time this score had only twice been exceeded in any match in Madras, and no visiting cricketer from England beat it until January 1938, when Joe Hardstaff made 213 for Lord Tennyson's side.

Playing against the Ties in 1902—indeed, captaining Madras—was another member of a famous cricketing trio : C. T. Studd, youngest and most celebrated of the three brothers, all of whom captained Cambridge in the early 1880s. C. T. had played for England in the historic "Ashes" match of 1882 at the Oval, and then toured Australia with the Hon. Ivor Bligh's side. But he was a remarkable man who chose to dedicate his life to the service of God and his fellow-men, and the call of missionary work occupied by far the largest part of his labours. His father, an indigo planter and man of the world, had made his fortune in India, and it was his dying wish that C. T. should take the Gospel there. For six years (from 1900 to 1906) C. T. Studd was Pastor of the Union Church at Ootacamund, South India, under the auspices of the Anglo-Indian Evangelization Society, and his work brought him in contact with many people in Madras and the outlying districts. He frequently played in cricket matches to get the chance of "preaching" to the players afterwards, and one wonders how many converts he gained after his score of 220 for Madras against "The World" at Ootacamund in May 1905 !

The fourth English side—and the first sent by M.C.C.—landed on the shores of India on October 16, 1926. It was not until the middle of January that the side reached Madras. Of the three matches there, the second one (a one-day game on January 21) provides the most interesting sidelight—not for the M. C. C. captain, Arthur Gilligan's, third duck of the tour, but for one of the opponents of the M. C. C. side. The game was against Madras Europeans, one of whose openers was E. A. Cowdrey, father of the present England captain. Ernest Cowdrey was a capable right-hand batsman who had played for his school and in London club cricket before he went out on business to India in his early twenties. He was tea planting in Malabar (Madras Presidency), had just turned 25 and not yet married, when M C.C. came to Madras. He made his side's top score—48, before Astill bowled him, and his innings gained an entry in *Wisden*, even though his name was there spelt wrongly! Little could he have guessed that he would one day have a son who would do far more than play in one-day matches with M. C. C. touring sides abroad!

When the next M.C.C. team visited India—under D. R. Jardine in 1933-34—Madras again had three games, the first of them producing the only hat-trick of "Father" Marriott's first-class career, and the final game seeing Chepauk's debut as a Test match ground. This Test also marked the last ever played for England by Douglas Jardine. He scored exactly a hundred runs in the game, which England won easily, though he could hardly have known that at that very time, with an Australian side due to leave for



M. C. C. X[illegible] Jardine *vs.* India-Chepauk 1934. Naomal can be seen with a bandage on his forehead. He sustained an injury facing Clarke–C. K. Nayudu is seated to the left of Jardine and the Yuvarajah of Patiala to his right. Mushtaq Ali is seated on the ground.

England in a matter of weeks, his future as an England captain was doomed. His exit from international cricket was the price England had to pay to restore amicable relations with Australia.

One further English team visited India before the coming of the war—a strong one got together and captained by the colourful Lord Tennyson, of Hampshire and England. Of the fifteen players in the side, only two did not represent England at one time or other. Though the 48-year-old captain developed dysentery at Porbandar and lived through an earthquake at Lahore, he considered the tour one of the best he had ever made. It was at Madras that the highest innings for the side was played—a five-hour effort by Hardstaff for 213, ended by a catch by M. J. Gopalan. This great Madras all-rounder then scored 98 and the State drew the game. In the fourth un-official Test of that season, also at Madras, the Englishmen were beaten by an innings: the great Amar Singh took eleven wickets. Of Lord Tennyson's touring side, only Hardstaff, Gibb and George Pope were ever to play in India again.

Post-war sides from England are probably too fresh in the memory to need comment here. It need merely be said that Madras has always been most generous in its hospitality to English cricketers, and the Madras Cricket Club in particular holds—and assuredly will hold—a warm place in their thoughts.

Anglo - Indian Memories

By G. D. MARTINEAU

★

I was born in India. Never mind the date! It is enough to say that Victoria was Queen, and I never saw a motor-car until I came to England to be sent to school. This was the normal procedure for Anglo-Indian children. In my case, the background was slightly different, for, although my father was born in London, and passed into the Indian Civil Service, my mother was a Warburton, and had never known any other country than India.

I therefore thought of India as my home, whereas England seemed little more than a distant idea. I still retain, in the retina of memory, scenes and sounds belonging to an India which has long since passed away.

There was one English thing that I remembered : *cricket*. With this I became acquainted in a curious way. A female cousin, anxious to further my education, had placed a bat in my hands, and bowled to me. By way of encouragement she credited me with forty runs, though I had no idea how I had made them. She was a generous girl, of saintly character, and became a well-known preceptress, whose death in a convent at Byculla this year was mourned by pupils, colleagues and others.

My cricket therefore began in India, though I was later inspired by watching first-class players on county grounds in England.

My parents knew more about lawn tennis than cricket, and my aunt, Durani Warburton, was five times lady tennis champion of the Punjab. My father also found this an agreeable diversion from judicial duties, and sometimes disconcerted his opponents by being ambidexterous. Another aunt, Muriel Warburton, was a born all-rounder. Show her a racket, a bat, a ball, or a sporting rifle, and she was at home with any of them. I once saw her tackle a treed wild cat by sheer courage and quickness, while I stood trembling at a safe distance. When I was of public school age, she came to England a widow (her husband, Captain Stenning, had died young), but she had not lost her readiness to join in any kind of sport. Observing a bat and stumps lying in a corner, she exclaimed : "Come along! I'll teach you how to play cricket!"

I bowled. It did not seem "the thing" to deliver anything formidable to an elderly woman who wore no pads. She swung her bat and scored a boundary in the conservatory. "Your fault!" was her comment as the glass tinkled. "You bowl like a milk-sop!" Well, if she wanted it, I reflected, she could have a fast one, and I gave it her. Again the bat swung this time in a straight drive over the fence, just missing the head of a passing carter.

The ball was lost—probably picked up by some street-boy—and that alarming innings had to be declared closed.

My grand father Warburton, India's greatest police detective (the village of Warburton is named after him) had little time for sport, but he believed in it as part of education. In a letter thanking me for remembering his 70th birthday, he asked whether I was a fast bowler "with a break on the ball".

He added: "You must do your best to become a first-class boxer. Continue taking

Message from

A Trading Organisation

Which Wishes to Remain Anonymous

We are very happy to hear that the Madras Cricket Club is celebrating its 120th Anniversary. We are well aware of the important role the Madras Cricket Club has played in fostering sportic activities and we are also aware of the great traditions of the club. We wish the club many more years of useful activity in the years to come.

lessons." I did my best to follow his injunctions, but only with modest success. When I had been in England a few years, I wondered how it had come about that cricket was the national game. It seemed to me that, whereas India had its monsoon at a certain season, England's monsoon was permanent. Another thing that puzzled me was the general assumption that cricket must be confined to males. "Cricket is not a woman's game," I heard everywhere. I thought of the cousin who first bowled to me in India. Not long before her death, she wrote that she feared cricket was becoming too commercialized. I thought of my aunt Muriel. I studied various books about the game's development and learnt that women had not only played it for more than 200 years but that they had been the indirect means of changing the method of bowling. I learnt that W. G. Grace had been coached by his mother. Since the formation of the Women's Cricket Association I have learnt still more. The game has been played, and played skilfully by women in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies.

Is there any sign of their taking it up in India? I would like to see a team of Indian women in the field. Am I asking too much?

The Heritage of Chepauk

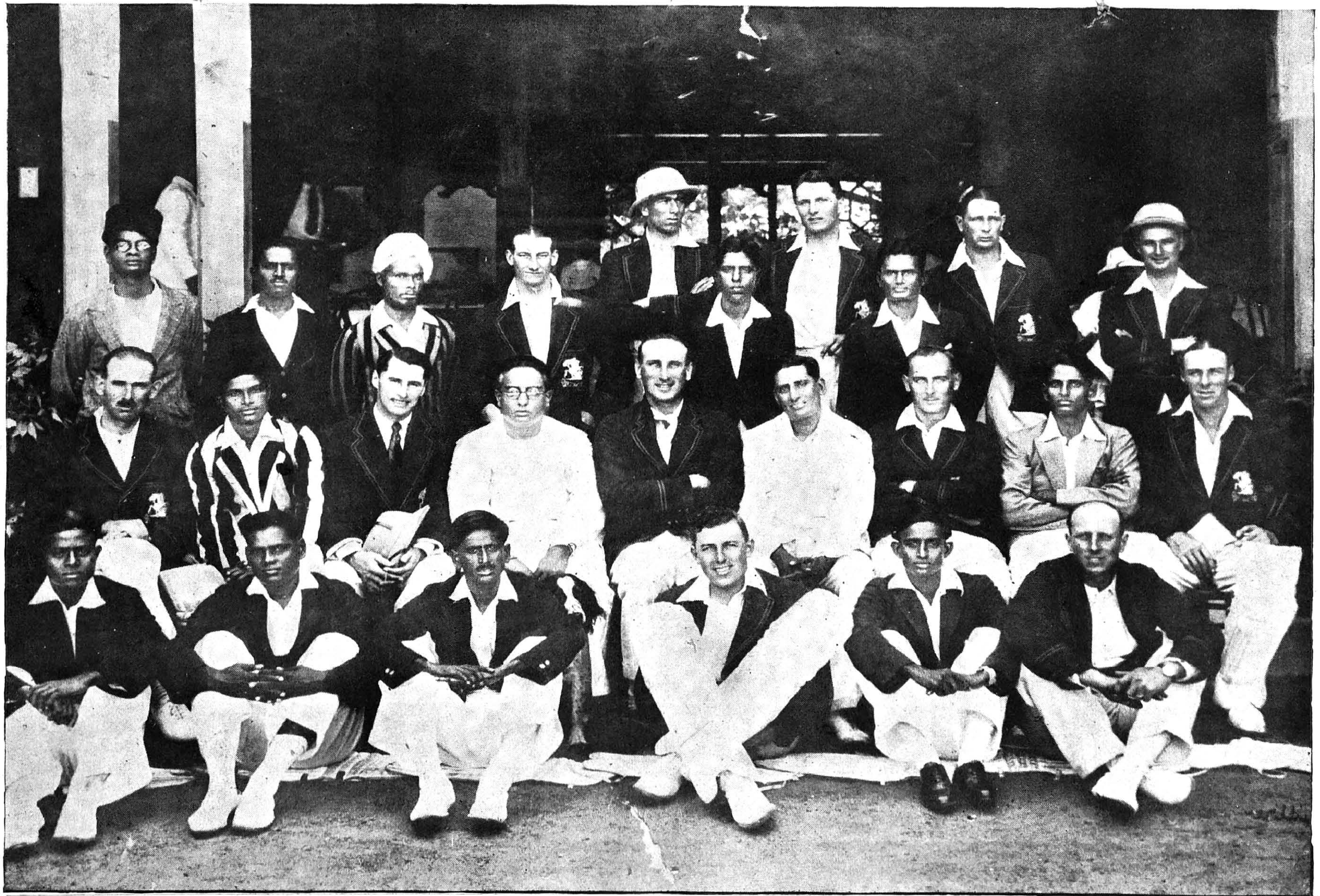
By V. PATTABHIRAMAN

★

Parodoxical as it may appear, the Englishman the most adventurous in the world, is also the most home-sick at the same time. He goes to all corners of the globe, lives amidst alien people or in desert lands, but cannot help building up a little England around him. Everywhere, cricket has figured prominently in his mode of living. In England, the commoner had little opportunity to play the "game of the lords," but the Englishman, trader, sailor or soldier in a foreign land had a dignity of his own. In India particularly, the leisure, amenities, together with the call of the emerald turf and the golden sunshine have irresistibly beckoned him to the game. Hence the oft-quoted saying that two Englishmen make a Club and three an Empire. Truly has our elder statesman, Shri. C. Rajagopalachari remarked "Amongst the legacies left behind by the Britisher in India, one is cricket."

The Madras Cricket Club was founded in 1846 by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot. The Chepauk ground was formed in 1885 when the English took over the Chepauk Palace belonging to the Nawab of Arcot. The parks and pleasure grounds which once included the present Government House Estate, Presidency College, Kasthuriba Hospital and the adjacent lands, took the shape of a cricket ground, familiarly known the world over today as "Chepauk," one of the finest cricket lawns in the world. The annual subscription to start with was one gold mohur. Membership rose to 196 in 1885. In 1888, the Club pavilion which was originally built at the north-eastern corner of the ground was damaged, and four years later, the pavilion at its present location was opened, to commemorate the visit of an All Ceylon Team.

The first representative match was played at Chepauk and the participants were the M.C.C. and a Calcutta XI on Jany. 6 and 7, 1864. Those days, a game of cricket was viewed as a frivolous pursuit, but this view did not weigh much with Sir William Denison, the then Governor of Madras, who being an Etonian, threw in his support to the proposal. Madras won the game in a thrilling match by 67 runs. Ceylon visited Madras in 1892 and 1896. Lord Hawke's XI playing at Madras on their Indian tour, drew both their games-one with the Club and the other with a Presidency XI. The same year, the Club visited Ceylon drawing with a Colombo XI and losing to an All Ceylon XI at Kandy. In 1893, the Club hosted a Bombay XI and a Parsees XI. E. H. D. Sewell the famous writer and cricketer played for the Club. A year later, playing at Bombay, the Club lost to the Parsees by 6 wickets and drawing with the Bombay XI. In 1899, the Club played Calcutta and Bihar Wanderers. In 1902, the Oxford University Authentics visited Madras and played at Chepauk, E.L. Challenor of West Indies scoring a brilliant double century for the visitors, a record lowered by M. Sathasivam of Ceylon playing for an All Ceylon XI vs South Zone in 1941-42 at Chepauk. Ceylon visited Madras in 1903, and a year later, the Club paid a short visit to Rangoon. 1905, 1907 and 1909 were visits by the Club and Ceylon on reciprocal arrangements. Ceylon has always been the happy hunting ground of Madras sportsmen as cricket, rugger, yachting teams and Rowing Fours will testify, and no one who has had the good fortune to



M. C. C. XI *vs.* Madras XI 1933–'34

D. R. Jardine at centre and seated to his right is the great 'Vizzy'.

The famous spinner the late Hedley Verity can also be seen in the picture to Jardine's left.

be in a visiting team can ever forget the lavish hospitality of the Ceylonese. Remember, those were the days before the Gopalan Trophy!

The Club was registered under the Indian Companies Act in 1926. The Madras Government gave a 20-year lease of the ground which was subsequently renewed for a further period of 20 years ending in 1966, on which date the Government handed over the grounds to the Madras Cricket Association for the construction of a Club House and Stadium. The Club entered into a separate lease for the running of the Club for 20 years with an option for renewal for another like period. The Club pavilion as it stands today is beautifully constructed and presents a homely atmosphere. Seated therein, one can see the vast turf, with giant trees all round—nearly a century old, (some of them unhappily cut down to make way for the new stadium) the towers of Chepauk Palace, and the cupolas of the Senate House. Inside the pavilion, all round the bar on the walls are engraved in teak the names of Presidency Teams (Europeans) and overseas teams which played at Chepauk. Group photos of various teams, a signed picture of the late Sir Jack Hobbs, a group photo of the 1927 M.C.C. team and a pen sketch of the Long Room at Lord's (presented by the author) adorn the walls. A. C. Hanbury is the donor of the turret clock outside the pavilion and this was put up to commemorate the M.C.C. visit in 1927. Happily, it keeps correct time and is a landmark in the ground. The Club owes its present importance in Indian cricket to the galaxy of sportsmen who have stood by it with both personal and financial help over the years, the most prominent of them being Sir Alex Arbuthnot, Sir Henry King, P. W. Partridge, J. Mc Iver, R. C. M. Strouts, G. Aste, E. R. Rose, Sir Daniel Richmond, Sir R. D. Denniston, H. P. Ward, C. P. Johnstone, C. Mainprice, R.B. Carrick, Dr. P. Subbaroyan, C. N. Reed, and a host of others.

The event to which the Madras cricket season led up to those days was the annual Presidency Match played between the Indians and the Europeans, during the Pongal holidays in January. The match was over 3 days and constituted one of the several games considered as first-class in Indian cricket. The encounters attracted very large crowds. In 1896, the Club's annual report had the following note : " In view of the vast improvement that has taken place in cricket in the Madras Presidency it is a question whether it would not be advisable to try the strength of the Combined Indian Team with the European XI and if the result be satisfactory, to play the Indian team yearly." The first match of the series was inaugurated in 1915, Sir Daniel Richmond leading the Europeans and B. Subramaniam, the Indians. This annual match was played almost without a break till 1952, when the Europeans found it impossible to raise a suitable XI. Of the 33 games played, 15 were won by the Indians, 8 by the Europeans and the rest drawn. Over the years, the Europeans relied mostly on talent in the City of Madras, Kolar, Bangalore and the West Coast. For the Indians, well-known players like Vizzy, Col. C. K., Md. Hussain, Hadi, Hyder Ali, Shahabuddin, Kanikkam, Jayaram, Yoganathan, proved a great attraction.

The most noteworthy players for the Europeans in the earlier years were J. W. A. Stephenson, a sound bat and good field, C. T. Studd, a sound opening batsman; Sir R. D. Richmond, a good bat and clever slow bowler; P. W. Partridge, a delightful stroke player; K. O. Goldie of Sussex (who was Military Secretary to the then Governor, Lord Willingdon); J. H. Parsons the Warwickshire cricketer; C. P. Johnstone (Kent and Cambridge) H. P. Ward (Yoskshire and Oxford); F. F. Richardson, the U.S.A.-born Oxford cricketer, a brillant batsman a sparkling fieldsman in the covers; C. N. Reed, brilliant opening bat; M. Robsinson, P. J. Dickinson, P. N. Miller, A. F. Wensley, the Sussex all-rounder who was coaching with the M. C. A., C. V. Cockburn, and W. V. H.

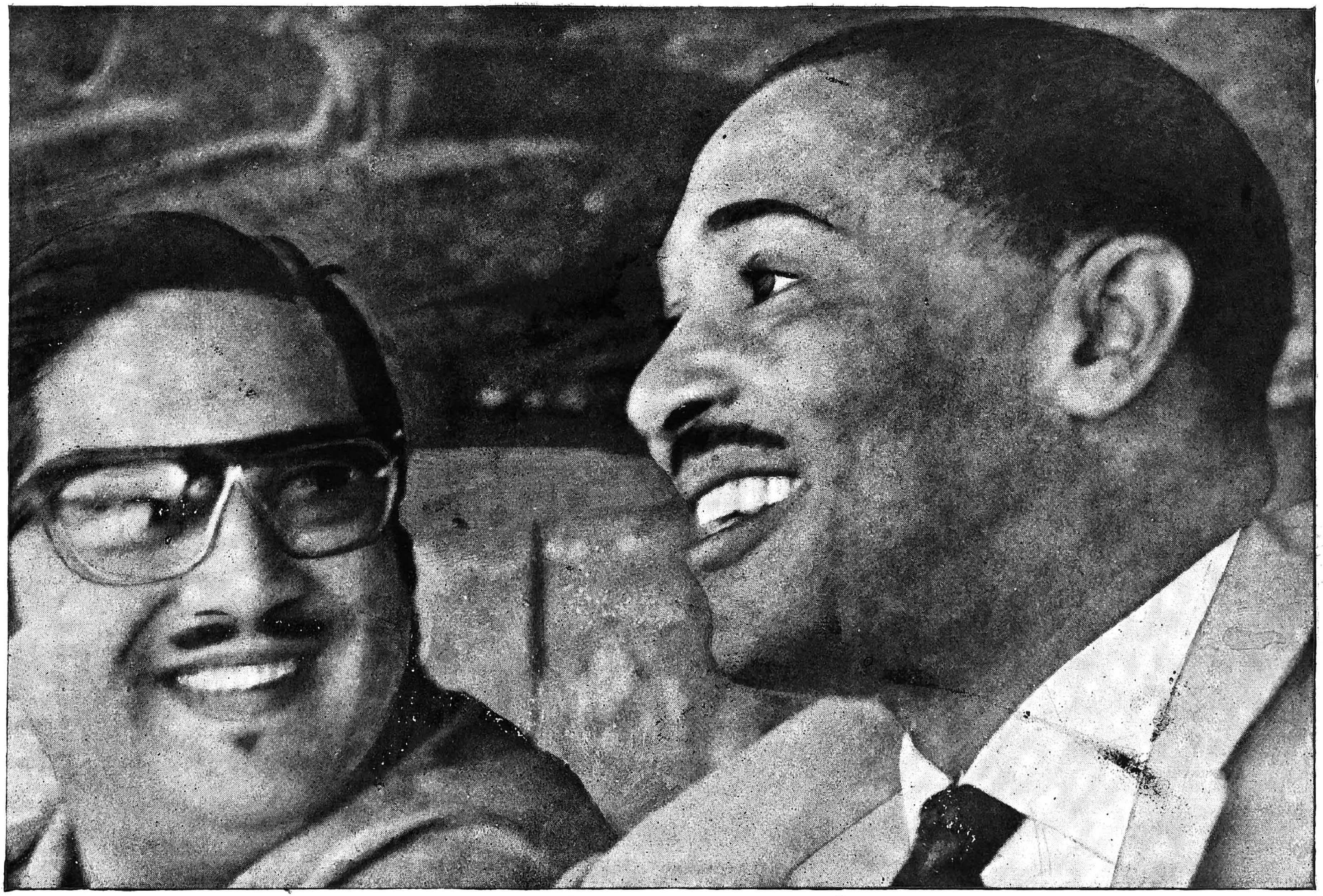
Robins. Con Johsntone was a fine left-handed opening bat and right arm bowler who, had he stayed in England, would surely have played for England. He led Madras in the Ranji Trophy matches, and was for a long term President of the M.C.A. As a skipper and a slip fielder, he had few equals. Ward was a fine hard-hitting bat and top-class wicket-keeper. Most of these have played in the Bombay Quadrangular, and others equally well known were E. W. C. Bradfield, B. Howlett, A. G. Penfold, R. B. Carrick, Aste and Bragg. Carrick was the idol of the crowd and his penchant for hitting "sixers" was proverbial. Shattock and Denniston (Denny) the Europeans, were opening batsmen for several years. Denny was the only known exponent of lob bowling which used to earn him quite a large number of wickets. Ren Nailer used to play for the Club in several matches including the Presidency Match in which he has scored 2 centuries and two 50's against the M. C. C. side of 1927. He was an immaculate batsman whose cover drive, cut and hook were beautifully executed with great power. Probably, apart from Richardson and Robinson, the best fieldsman among the M. C. C. team was R. R. Summerhayes, the former Oxford Hockey Captain.

Amongst the Indian players who did well in the Presidency matches were M. V. Ramanjulu, M. Baliah, C Ramaswami, M. J. Gopalan, C. R. Ganapathy, A. G. Ram Singh, A. V. Krishnaswami, V. Jaganathan, P. E. Palia, M. C. Sivasankaran, and C. R. Rangachari. In the 1927 Presidency match, H. P. Ward hit up a sparkling 173 for the Europeans, which was bettered by one run by M. C. Sivasankaran for the Indians, the very next day. C. P. Johnstone's bag of 6 for 65 in the Indians' total of 458 was indeed praiseworthy. The M. C. C's visit to Madras in 1927 was a great financial success. As many as 50,000 paid for admission, and the accounts revealed that the sum of nearly Rs. 13,500/- as M. C. C.'s share of receipts which was a record, as only Rs. 4,000/- was the guarantee fixed for the match.

The present article will not be complete without mentioning one or two anecdotes of the Club. A fixture, whether a full day or a Saturday afternoon at Chepauk was an event eagerly looked forward to by almost every Club. Invariably the first question to be put to the visiting captain after the toss, would be "Can I have a look at the ball that you are going to use"? Invariably a Club Special made in Sialkot would be displayed. With a frown on his face, the home team skipper would hand over a Duke's Corinthian (those days it would cost about Rs. 5/- per ball) for the visitors to bowl with. The moral was "Inferior quality balls break good bats". Another story, this time referring to Con Johsntone was the annual Presidency Match of the year.

De Kretser (Ceylon) who had just joined the Chartered Bank on probation opened the batting with Johnstone for the Europeans. It was the practice of Con to break his duck at the first opportunity, and this time, hitting the ball to cover, called for a sharp run. De Kretser who did not have the time to know the mannerisms of his skipper, failed to respond, and Johnstone was run out. During lunch, a parental lecture followed at the dressing room and De Kretser was almost in tears.

Chepauk has been the venue for all, representative matches till 1952 when Pakistan played India at Chepauk; thereafter the venue shifted to the Corporation Stadium. It was a happy augury that in 1966, the venue switched back to Chepauk and the first big match we had was with the West Indies in 1967. India's first Test victory in official Tests against England was scored on the Chepauk ground as far back as in February 1952, by an innings and 8 runs. Chepauk was also the venue for the inauguration of the first match of the Ranji Trophy series which was played on the 4th November 1934, when M. J. Gopalan had the honour of bowling the ball against Mysore. The match ended in a thrilling victory for Madras by an innings and 23 runs, play ending in a single day which was



Sir Frank Worrell talking to the Maharajah of Baroda. W. Indies vs. India 1966.

a record for any first-class match. C. P. Johnstone had the distinction of winning every match he captained for Madras from 1934 to 1941 when in the final Madras lost to Maharashtra led by Prof. Deodhar. Again when in 1954—55, Madras had the proud distinction of winning the coveted Ranji Trophy for the first time, in her cricket history, it was Balu Alaganan, another M.C.C. cricketer who was the skipper for the Madras XI.

School and University cricketers of Madras State had the good fortune of playing on this famous ground in Inter-State, Inter-Zone schools matches for the Cooch Behar Trophy and the Rohinton Baria Trophy for Universities over the years. In this respect, the M.C.A., owes much to the cricket secretaries of the M. C. C. especially to J. C. White, B. Alaganan and C. D. Gopinath. Several coaching camps have been held at Chepauk for the benefit of young cricketers, the most important of them being the B. Subramaniam Memorial Nets which were inaugurated in April 1944 by the cricketing Governor of Madras, Sir Arthur Hope who played the first ball bowled by Sir Robert Denniston. The Nets have been named after the late Mr. B. Subramaniam. who was hailed as the W. G. Grace of Madras Cricket. The M.C.C. were generous enough to allot a piece of land to the M.C.A. at the north-eastern corner of the ground (which was subsequently moved to the present location at the north-western portion) to house five-winged cricket nets. It was again thanks to the imagination and initiative shown by the then President of the MCA (who was also the skipper of the Madras Team in the Ranji Trophy) C. P. Johnstone that coaching on an organised basis with the aid of professional coaches brought from England—A. F. Wensley. Eddie Paynter, Worthington and others was made possible.

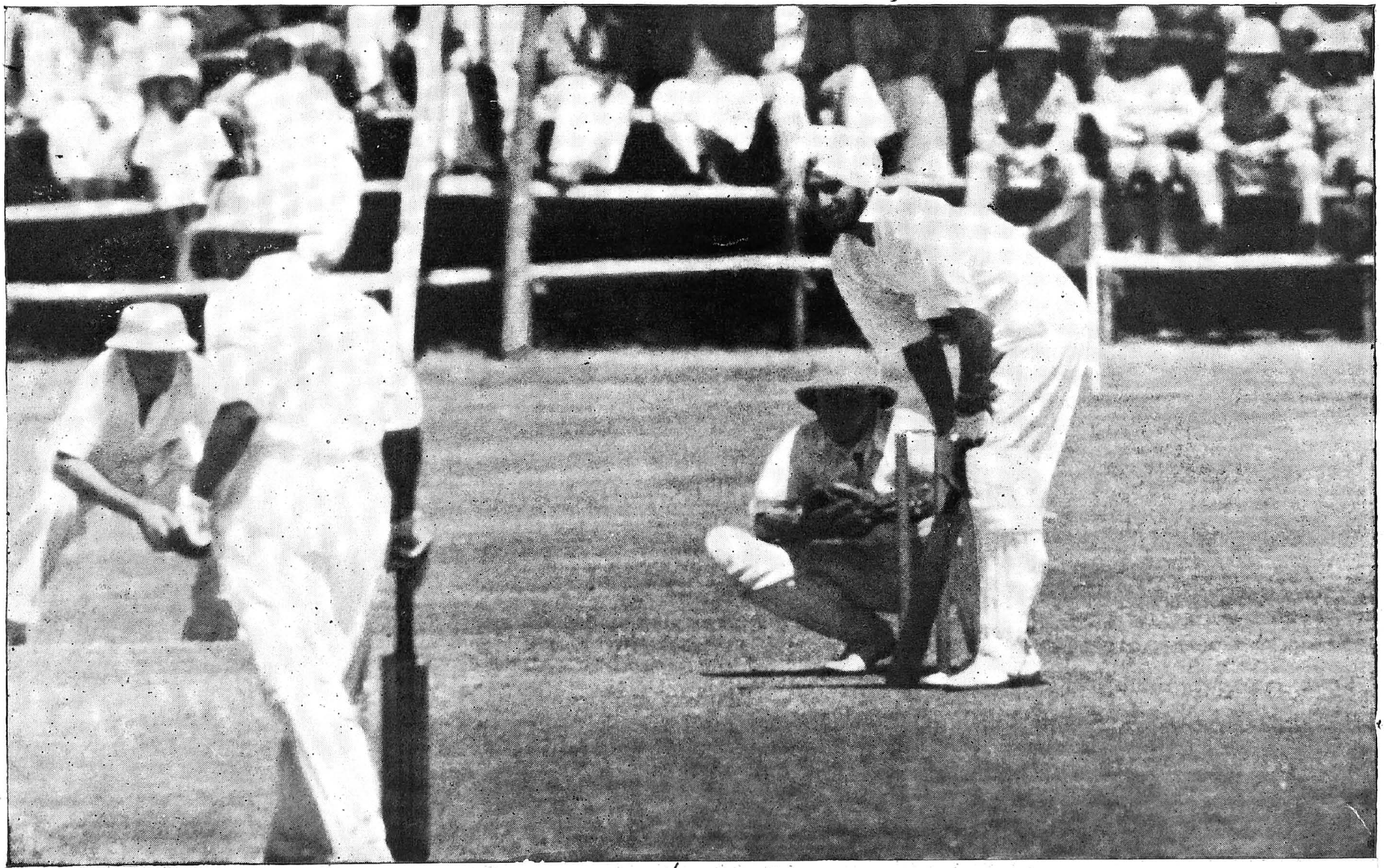
The Madras C.C. also used to stage an All India Tennis Tournament called the South Indian Tennis Championships in which top ranking stars took part. An annual Hockey Tournament for the Club's Challenge Cup, considered as the Blue Riband of Madras Hockey, attracted several up-country teams from Bombay, Mysore, Hyderabad, Kerala, Punjab, Bengal, Delhi, Nagpur, Poona, Bhopal, and Services. The Indian National Teams which took part in the Olympics have always played representative matches at Chepauk and delighted thousands of Madras hockey fans. A few matches in the All India Rugger Tournament have also been played at Chepauk. During the 120th year of its existence, the Club has organised a Single Wicket Cricket Tournament, the first of its kind in India, in which as many as 64 players are taking part.

My resume will not be complete without a reference to the yeoman services rendered to the Club by Chief Groundsman M. Munuswami who recently passed away after a brief illness. This son of the soil joined the club as a groundsman on a meagre salary and rose by dint of hard work and industry to the position of chief groundsman. His love of the game, love of the players, his intimate knowledge and skill in the upkeep, maintenance and renovation of the Chepauk wicket was known all over the Presidency. The Chepauk turf was a sort of first love for this good old man who used to spend hours working on the cricket square to make it as perfect as a billiards table. His sudden demise was a great loss to the Club.

The character of a cricket ground and its appearance depend upon the mood and particular receptivity of the observer. First impressions are always difficult to set aside. Environment too, is an important part of cricket. Most players have their favourite grounds, and so, there is hardly any cricket ground without a character. The things that happen in a place, leave their mark on it. The pageant of players, and their performances depend not only on how wickets play but also on the brick and mortar; trees and tents attached to the ground. Chepauk is unique among cricket grounds. It is accepted the world over as the Cradle of Madras Cricket like Lord's, and is the headquarters of the game. There is no cricketer from the humblest

to the most experienced, who would not acknowledge a visit to Chepauk, as player or spectator as an experience "with a difference." And there are few days in the year when a visit does not bring a meeting with some acquaintance or some celebrity of cricket. And what about the crowds that throng to Chepauk? Generally speaking, judged by all shades of opinion the world over, the crowd has been described and acclaimed as the most indulgent anywhere, most sporting, well behaved, impartial and appreciative.

The very mention of Chepauk brings to one's mind the memories of a glorious past, great-players, notable performances, most exciting encounters, and other events of a happy and precious past. Let us thank the Lord for the friendships forged, happiness offered and the memories left behind. Sweet music in the names I used to know and magic when I heard them long ago. How can we keep and preserve the traditions and heritage of "Chepauk"? Why, the answer is very simple. Call the new Stadium the "Chepauk Stadium". Mention Hambledon to the ordinary cricketer and he will say "Isn't that where cricket began?" Literally, this is untrue. But let us not quarrel over this trifle, for whatever is said of Hambledon, one thing is certain that Chepauk was the Nursery of Madras Cricket. And so let us propose a toast to the traditions of Chepauk where that dear lovely game of cricket—that stirs us so profoundly, that lifts up our hearts and breaks them, and in the end fills them with pride and joy—is played.



First Test at Chepauk–India *vs.* England 1934

Yuvarajah of Patiala batting. He played a brilliant innings against Jardine's team scoring **64** runs and was the only Indian batsman to really face up to the fiery Clarke—the M. C. C. fast bowler.

C. P. Johnstone and V. N. Madhava Rao going out to open the Madras innings in a Ranji Trophy match. As can be seen from the above picture C. P. Johnstone would always touch his left pad when entering.

REMINISCENCES

By C. P. JOHNSTONE

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My cricket career in Madras began in October 1925, but not very auspiciously, as I don't think I made double figures during the next two months. I was quite fairly christened by the Press as the Kent cricketer, who never makes any runs. But I am glad to say that things did get better.

In my first Presidency match the Indian Team had some fine cricketers and fine men notably 'C. K. Naidu,' Venkataramanjulu, Baliah and C. R. Ganapathi. 'C. K.' of course, became a household word in Indian cricket. With his long reach and flexible wrists he resembled in my view what a right handed Frank Woolley would have looked like— and he always gave great pleasure to the spectators. If C. R. Ganapathi had been born a little later he surely would have played for India. He was a deadly accurate slow to medium leg-break bowler.

The first M.C.C. Team captained by A.E.R. Gilligan arrived in Madras in January 1927, and I must confess I was slightly worried as to how the wicket would stand up in the 4th innings, especially with such bowlers as Tate, Parsons, Astille and Peter Smith in the M. C. C. side. But I need not have worried, as Munuswami showed himself just as capable in producing a 3 day wicket as he had for 1 day matches. All who have played at Chepauk owe him a great debt of gratitude for his dedicated work and for the fine wickets he provided.

The proceedings were livened up during one of the luncheon intervals, when R.E.S. Wyatt rode a motor cycle round the inside of the boundary, an exploit which was amusing at the time, but is not one to be encouraged.

I remember another incident, and one which I had never witnessed before or since, when on arrival at Chepauk in the evening before the Test Match against Lord Tennyson's M. C. C. Team, I saw Amarnath bowling in the middle to Amar Singh, who was practising hitting sixes with two of the ground staff on the other side of the wall. His early death was a tragedy to Indian cricket. He was a bowler of the highest class, somewhat similar to Maurice Tate, and on a turning wicket he bowled his off-spinners with great effect.

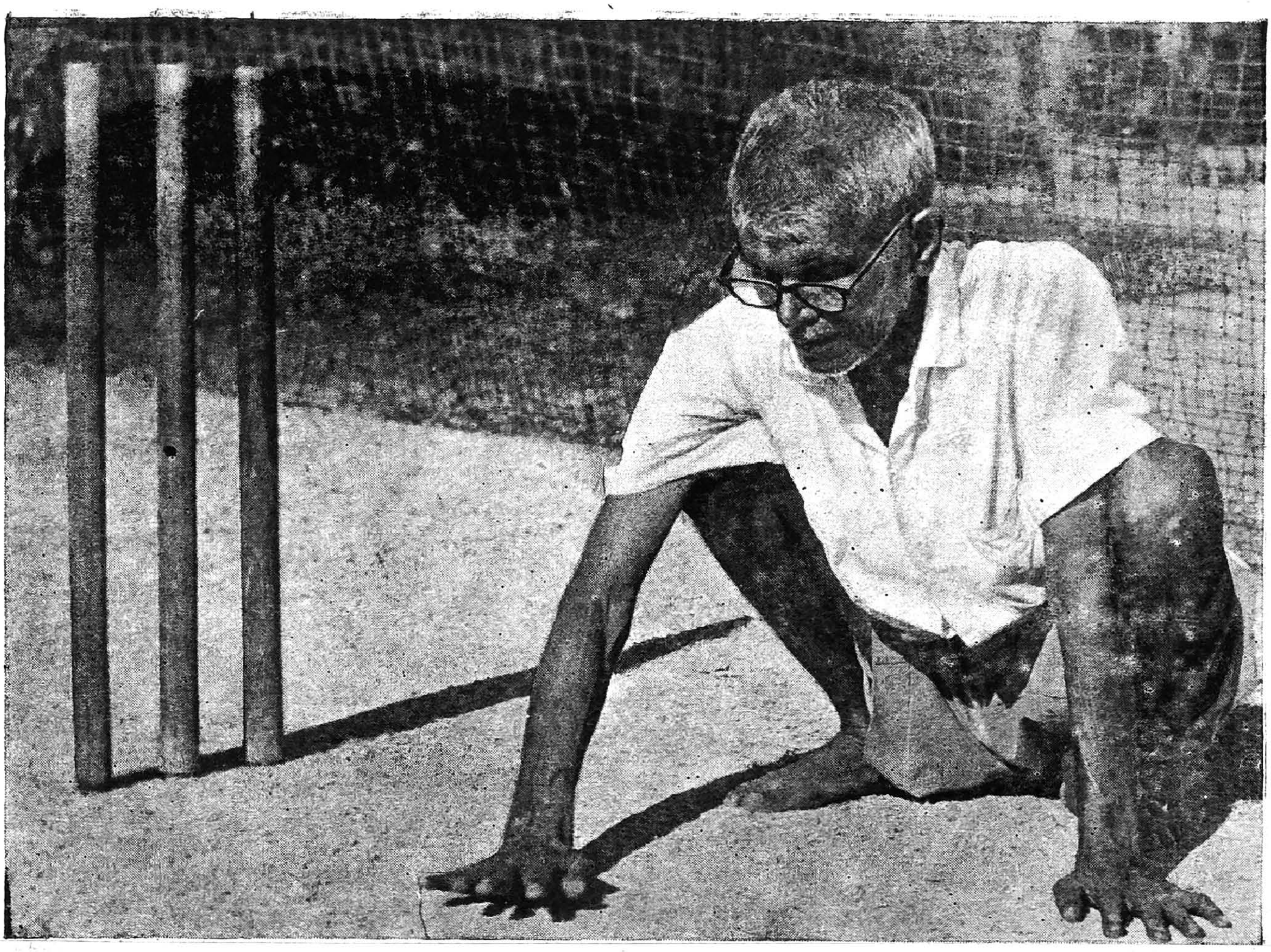
For about 20 years Gopalan and Ram Singh were the outstanding cricketers in Madras. Gopalan toured England in 1936 and in my view Ram Singh should also have been in that side. I played a great deal of cricket with both these players, which I thoroughly enjoyed, and I often found it a comforting thought that they were not playing for the opposition.

Of the European cricketers H. P. Ward, an old Oxford Blue, was an outstanding bat and a fine wicket-keeper, who rendered great service in many Presidency matches. In retrospect one of the most interesting cricketers to come to Madras for 2 or 3 seasons was J.W.A. Stephenson, a soldier who showed himself to be a fine Club cricketer, mainly a batsman but I suggest he didn't give any real signs that he was going in a season or two to take 9 wickets in the Gents & Players match at Lord's and that he was to go very close to be chosen to tour Australia. Conditions in Madras do not really suit an in-swing bowler, but the main explanation for his later success must lie in a great deal of practice and hard work. This surely must be a great encouragement to a young player and demonstrates what can be done by practice and good coaching.

Another interesting European cricketer was A.G. Penfold, who took a lot of wickets in the 1920s with his fast medium deliveries bowled off the wrong foot. He used to bowl in white shoes, and when on leave was given a trial by a County. He took several wickets in his first match, but was apparently told that he must wear boots in future. He evidently refused and played no more County cricket.

I must have played more cricket at Chepauk than on any other ground. I would like to say that I look on my time in Madras with the greatest pleasure, especially meeting so many cricketers who played the game in the spirit in which I believe it should be played. I cannot recall a single unpleasant incident and I should like to thank all those who contributed to this happy state of affairs.

I am sure that the Madras Cricket Club will continue to make in the future the great contribution to the game that it has in the past, and I would like to send my very best wishes to the President and all members for the continued success of the Club.



The late Munuswami, the famous groundsman responsible for so many test pitches at Chepauk.

CHEPAUK AND I

By A. G. RAM SINGH

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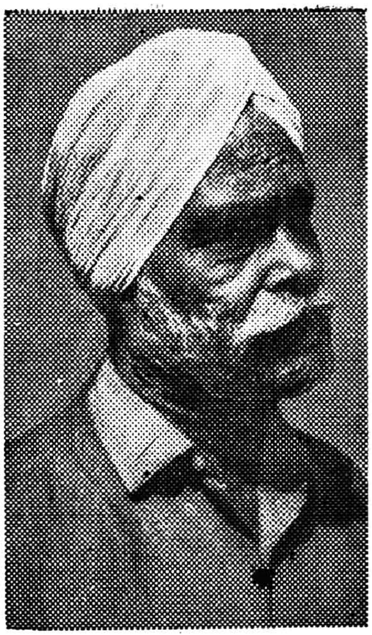


Chepauk! the name represents the Madras Cricket Club. It is vast, green and well cared for, the result of being watered and nourished affectionately like a child by doting parents. There are fine trees all round giving a graceful shade in which thousands of spectators have enjoyed many a battle conducted in the middle. The ground also has a pavilion, pleasing and pretentious.

As an young lad, several years ago, on my way to the Marina Beach I was first attracted by the beauty of this ground and ventured in to watch a cricket match in progress. I was so captivated by the beauty of the surroundings that I decided that I should one day play on that field. I applied myself to practice strenuously and made my first appearance in a first class match as a twelfth man against the side brought out by the late Maharaj Kumar of Vijayanagaram and which included Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe.

Cricket in the twenties and early thirties was, in the absence of a visiting team, confined mainly to local matches and the annual Presidency match in which the Europeans played the Indians. The atmosphere was usually charged with tension and the crowd was generally considerable.

I recall the first match I witnessed in 1922 when C. K. Nayudu played for the Indians; he thrilled the crowd with a magnificent century, with C. K. K. Pillai also scoring a hundred. The Europeans had stalwarts like R. D. Denniston, R. B. Carrick, R. D. Richmond, and later C. P. Johnstone–one of the finest slip–fielders in the world—and H. P. Ward—a magnificent wicket-keeper-batsman.

With the advent of the Ranji Trophy National Championship in 1934, Chepauk became well-known throughout the country. The first match played was between Madras and Mysore on a rain-affected wicket; Madras beat Mysore by an innings. I had the satisfaction of securing 11 wickets.

In 1935 when I was touring Ceylon with the Minerva Cricket Club under Sir R. D. Denniston I was asked to rush back to play against Hyderabad. Reaching Egmore Station an hour before the start of the match, I sent my kit-bag by the car that was waiting for me with instructions to take the bag to Chepauk. On reaching Chepauk after a change, I discovered my cricket bag was missing. As play was about to commence, I had no choice but to borrow a pair of boots from Hyderabad's Hyder Ali and went on the field to secure two wickets. Later I learnt that my kit-bag was taken by mistake to the Marina Ground pavilion. Such was the sweet relief of wearing one's own boots that I got 121 not out which was crowned by a cable from R. D. Denniston saying—"Well done! Ram now get them out".

Obediently, we got Hyderabad out and I captured six wickets.

In 1935, when India was playing Jack Ryder's Australians at Chepauk, Amar Singh hit a six which landed on the Bells Road. C. G. Macartney, covering for the "Hindu" wrote that it was a mis-hit. I leave it to the imagination of readers as to where the ball would have landed if it had been hit in the middle of the bat!

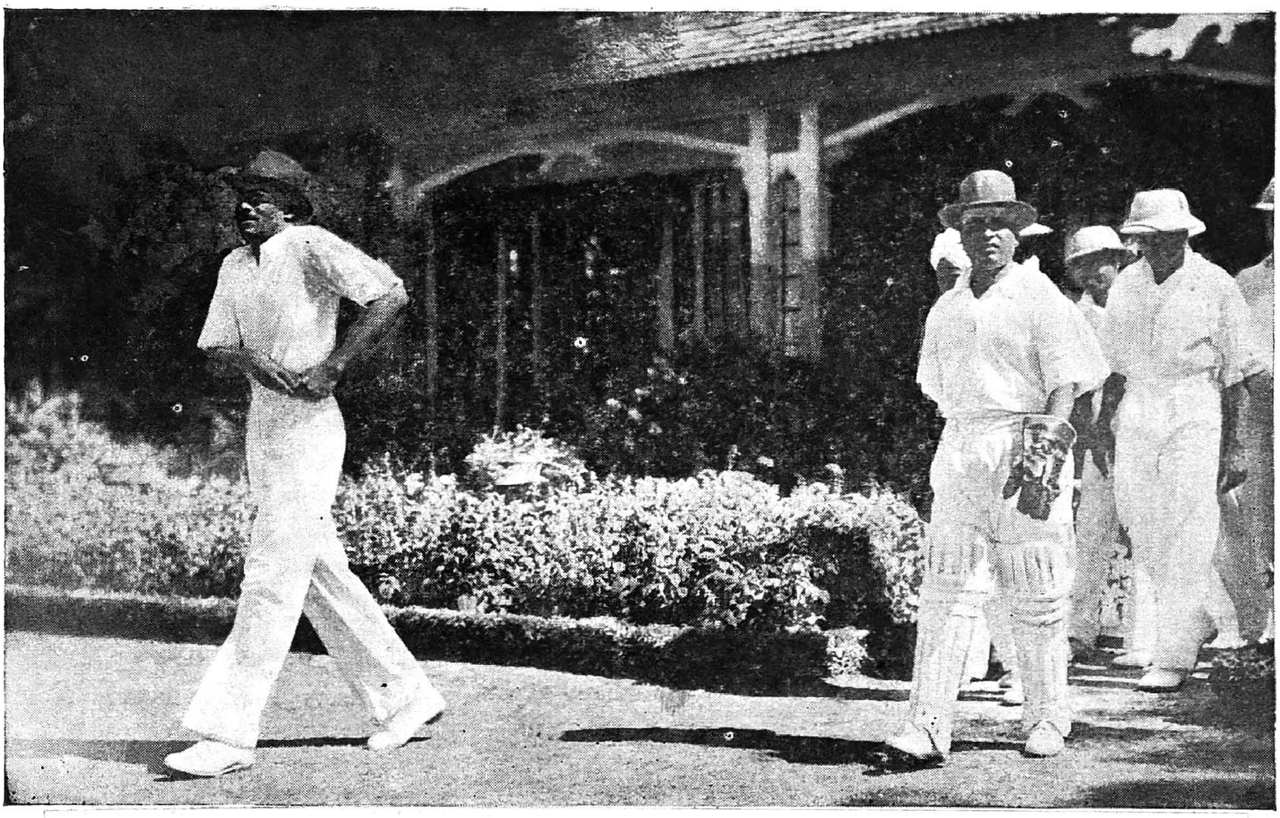
Beating Hyderabad, we were pitted in the semi-finals against U. P. captained by P. E. Palia, M. J. Gopalan hit a century and when 41, I fractured my left thumb but continued to bat to score 91. In the second innings when we were 7 wickets down, I asked my Captain to let me bat; after a great deal of persuasion, he eventually relented. I batted for 72 minutes with my thumb in plaster and scored 9 runs. My partnership with N. J. Venkatesan realised 25 runs. U. P. in their second venture, lost wickets at regular intervals and at one stage required 25 runs with 2 wickets in hand to win the match. G. Parthasarathi captured these two wickets in a good spell and Madras won the match.

Another match that stands out in my memory is the one against Ceylon in 1940. On the eve of the match, Jayasundara, Ceylon's fast bowler, predicted I will not stand up to his bouncers. Indeed, there was a veritable barrage and the fact I scored a century underlines the deep concentration and foot-work required in combating all types of bowling.

The official Test match against West Indies in 1948 was most enjoyable. When Dattu Phadkar bowled his first bouncer, the great Headley immediately prophesised that India has lost the match. Jones and Trim retaliated with bouncers and India indeed lost the match. In 1951-52 India won the official Test against M. C. C. and it was fitting that the First Test victory should have been on the hallowed field of Chepauk.

One can go on writing endlessly of one's association with Chepauk. The bowling of Gopalan, the spectacular catching by Rangachari at silly-mid-off, Ren Nailer's cover-driving, and Johnstone's astute captaincy will always remain green in the memories of all who witnessed the matches at Chepauk. Latterly, Chepauk saw the stroke-making of Gopinath and Kripal Singh and of Milkha Singh and Belliappa, S. Venkata Raghavan and A. G. Satwinder Singh. The century by Kripal Singh against Bombay in 1959 earned him a place in the Indian Team to England that year.

Chepauk has been synonymous with Madras cricket. It has fostered its growth and became the Mecca of Madras Cricket. May Chepauk live up to its name in the coming years, and continue to inspire budding cricketers to great achievements–after all, they have several precedents. It remains for me to offer my felicitations to the Madras Cricket Club on the celebration of its 120th Anniversary and to express the hope that it will grow stronger than ever in the cause of Madras cricket.



Col. C. K. Nayudu leading the Indians in the annual Presidency match against the Europeans.

Highlights of Cricket in Chepauk

By M. J. GOPALAN

★

To write about my association with Chepauk, which till recently meant the Madras Cricket Club, is a difficult task for me. I have been part and parcel of this famous place and my friendship—that is how I feel about it—had been so close that at first I felt it would be embarrassing to talk or write about it. But how can I refuse the request of the Secretary made on the unique occasion of the celebration of the Club's centenary, or to put it more correctly, its 120th anniversary ?

At the outset I want to say that the Chepauk ground and its setting, especially as it was in the old days, was one of the most beautiful in my experience. The outfield was as splendid as the pitch ; there was really no difference between the two surfaces. The pitch was a sporting one and gave bowler and batsman an equal chance. Every overseas team that played at Chepauk during my days was full of praise for the conditions of play. I can boldly say that this was so because of the careful way in which the members tended the ground and the pitch.

My entry into the ground from pavilion and back have been so numerous that the very steps of the Club house should have been worn out and the grass on the lawn smothered under my heels. But I will never forget my last walk-back from the ground into the pavilion, as I rushed the last few steps to disappear into the crowd inside the club-house, the cheers of the crowd rang in my ears. Another reception, which brought a lump in my throat, followed my innings for South Zone against the West Indies in 1949. It is not for me to talk about my own performance but I can be excused if I quote one writer who later called it the " fine swan song of Gopalan ".

This innings was the last in my first class career, which rightly ended on the M. C. C, ground, where it had started more than two decades earlier. One great satisfaction this last knock gave me was that it was against an overseas team. When I looked back at the many matches which I had played at Chepauk, I find that I have done well against almost all overseas teams—starting from my hat-trick against a Ceylon side in 1931 to my last innings against the West Indies. I really feel thankful to God for this and for my not letting down my dear Madras crowd. I feel that my success was due to the fine ground on which I played, its atmosphere which always drove me to give my best and the encouragement given to me by innumerable friends.

I have played for 21 seasons at Chepauk and it is not easy for me to recall the many moments that filled them or to recollect the many personalities with whom I had played or moved. There were B. Subramaniam and C. P. Johnstone, my guardian angels so to say; the Bhatt brothers, favourites of the crowd, and great H. P. Ward, a forceful batsman and wicket-keeper, who demonstrated that keeping wickets was not mere stopping of the ball but a great science ; R. D. Denniston, who kept everybody cheerful by his jokes ; C. K. Nayudu, the hero of the crowds, a great cricketer and an artist whether he was batting, bowling or fielding ; A. G. Ram Singh, with whom I struck a wonderful partnership, especially in bowling for nearly 15 years ; G. Parthasarathy—G. P. to one and all—my friend and guide, on and off the field, one of the best all-rounders in my days ; A. V. Krishnaswami, my companion in my club and State teams, an opening batsman who displayed brilliant strokes ; Ren Nailer, a dashing

batsman and a good friend; Vijay Merchant, Lala Amarnath and Mushtaq Ali, a great trio, each great in his own way; Dilawar Hussain, a stout-hearted batsman and wicket-keeper; Nissar and Amar Singh, the best pair of opening bowlers produced by this country. The characters are really so many that it is difficult to put them down here.

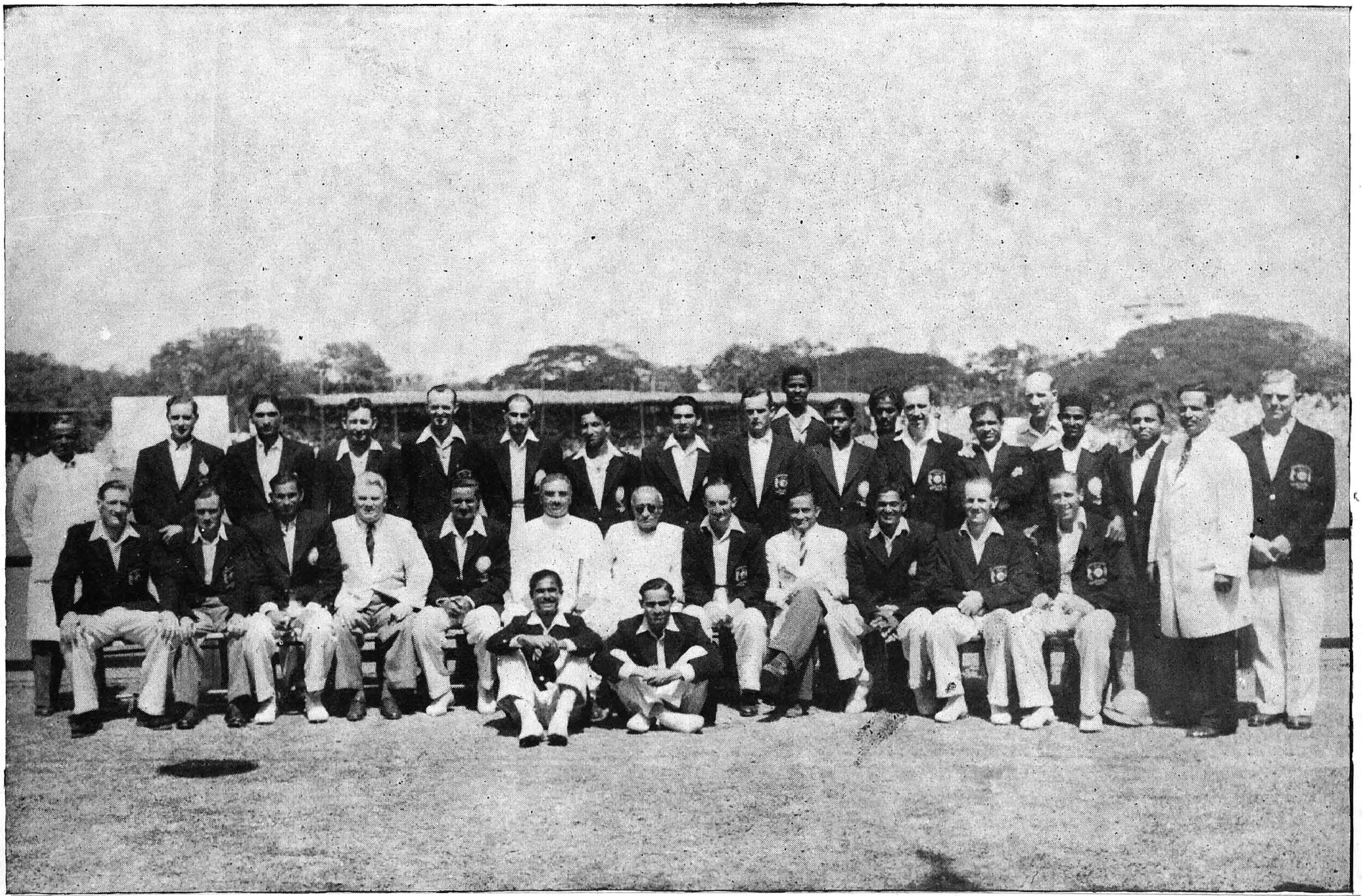
It was a fine lot of players from overseas too that I moved with and played against at Chepauk. At the head of the list are Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe, the greatest pair of opening batsmen in cricket who came in 1932; Vizzy, the Maharajkumar of Vizianagaram, a great patron of the game; Jack Ryder and his compatriot Charlie Macartney, two great Australians; the gentlemanly Arthur Gilligan and the stern Douglas Jardine, two England captains; the dynamic Keith Miller and the mischievous Lindsay Hassett, members of the Australian Services side; Lord Tennyson, Learie Constantine, the great West Indian, and the famous trio, Worrell, Weekes and Walcott. Again it is impossible to exhaust the list.

There were many interesting incidents during my days but the two most exciting for me I wish to write about here. The first was when I bowled the great Jack Hobbs. As I ran into bowl I was considering it a rare honour even to deliver a ball to such a famous batsman. So one can imagine how excited I was when the master missed the ball and was clean bowled. If I had forgotten then to set right my dishevelled chignom I could very well be excused!

The other great moment for me was when I first took the field at Chepauk against Dhyan Chand, the hockey wizard, when the Indian team played a local side on its way to the Amsterdam Olympics in 1932. I was amazed at the way he played and beat the defenders by his speed, passing and stickwork. Yes, my association with Chepauk was through hockey also. In this also I met many friends and great players. I particularly wish to mention the name of R. C. Summerhayes of the M. C. C., a great centre half-back. It was from him that I learned how to play as a centre half-back and the great art of passing the ball through the push.

Rightly enough, it was at Chepauk that a benefit match was organised for me and that was one of the few occasions when I could not contain my emotions, especially with such champions like Constantine, F. G. De Saram of Ceylon and Imtiz Ahmed of Pakistan, honouring me with their presence. As it should be it was at Chepauk again that the Madras Cricket Association got up a party to congratulate me when the President of India awarded me the title of Padma Shri.

For whatever I was as a player, for whatever I am now as a sportman I owe much to Chepauk, the Madras Cricket Club and my colleagues on and off the ground.



India *vs*. Jack Livingstone's Commonwealth XI—1949

Sri. Rajaji, the Maharaja of Bhavanagar, the then Governor of Madras and Sri. C. R. Pattabiraman seated in the front row. To the Governor's right are Vijay Hazare, Duckworth and Mushtaq Ali.

The M. C. C. — in Retrospect

By C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN

★

It will be interesting to take our minds back by a hundred years and visualise how the Madras Cricket Club functioned. What was the scene when a cricket match was played at Chepauk then ?

Most of the players would have driven to the ground in horse-drawn carriages or ridden to the ground. The dresses would have been different from what we see on the cricket field today. The ladies in particular wore the dresses of the period valiantly withstanding the inclement weather. It was purely an English Club then.

By about the beginning of this century the dresses would have changed a bit but the setting was almost the same. A few Indian players like Buchi Babu Naidu, Chari of Madras and Jayaram of Bangalore had joined in, and were playing in matches against the M.C.C. Later on, the Presidency Matches between Europeans and Indians were regular annual events which drew large crowds to Chepauk until the thirties of this century. A few Anglo-Indians like Fewkes and Nailer played for the European side and the Indian side consisted mostly of players of the Madras United Club and later, of the Y. M. I.A. Sometimes cricketers from Kolar, Bangalore and Trichinopoly played in these matches on both sides. Thereafter, with C. K. Naidu from Bombay joining in, the match became a greater attraction. The magnificent century of the graceful C. K. Naidu on his first appearance which included fantastic sixes is still a topic when old sportsmen gather in South India. In the same match C. K. K. Pillai also secured his hundred in his own steady and graceful manner. Nor can we forget Sivasanker beating H. P. Ward's record later on of about 172 runs on the next day when Indians batted against Europeans. Old stagers remember the clever bowling of Ganapathi and tbe gracefnl run-up of Gopalan to the crease and his accurate bowling as also left-handed Ram Singh's slow medium balls which toppled many a reputed batsman. C. P. Johnstone was a class by himself and his powerful drives were objects of study. R. B. Carrick, the sturdy hitter was the darling of the crowds and his records on South Indian cricket grounds as also on the golf courses have not been equalled. Sportsmen from all over South India and sometimes from beyond travelled long distances to witness the Presidency matches. There were occasionally representative matches also played between Madras and Ceylon and Bombay. The Madras crowds were enabled to witness delightful cricket played stalwarts by like Saravanamuthu and De Saram, to mention only two names from Ceylon.

It w'll be a long narrative if I refer to many of the distinguished players who played for the Indian side but it is appropriate to mention the names of Prof. C. K. Krishna Pillai, Messrs. T. Vasu, Subramaniam, Ganapathi, Venkataramanjulu, Baliah and Ramaswamy and later on Gopalan and Ram Singh. C. Ramaswami, the third son of Buchi Babu, is still happily with us today and he was one of the earliest from India to get a Tennis Blue in Cambridge. My young friends Gopinath, Alaganan, Kripal Singh and the other sons of dear old Ram Singh came on the stage later.

There was a short period when the Presidency matches came to an end. The reason was simple. The two main clubs which were more or less managing these matches, were the M.C.C. on the European side and the M.U.C. on the Indian side. The organisation rested in the hands of the M.C.C. With the increase of Clubs in the city of Madras, the

Indian Cricket Federation was formed, consisting of the Indian Clubs in the early thirties, in the foundation of which, I played a humble part. The Federation wanted a place in the sun and fought for equal rights in the organisation and management of representative cricket matches for Madras. It is unnecessary to give a detailed narration of the struggle. Suffice it to say, that wiser counsels prevailed as a result of which the Madras Cricket Association was formed with the M.C.C. joining in as a member. Dr. Subbaroyan became the President with C. P. Johnstone and myself as Vice-Presidents, assisted by stalwarts like Ranga Rao, Kannan, Lakshmi Ratan and Sambanda Mudaliar and others. I was privileged to succeed Johnstone as President and had a long innings as Steward of the Association for over ten years.

There was a short period when the Cricket Association moved into the Corporation Stadium in Park Town and many representative matches were played there. The newly prepared pitch of the Park Town grounds was different from the well-known Chepauk pitch and was less 'sporting.' However in the early years of the life of the Cricket Association, we were able to secure a notable record of victories insofar as representative matches were concerned. Many Test series were won on the Madras ground and the flag of South India was flying high in the cricket world. Two South Indians, Ramaswami and Gopalan toured England with the Indian Team of 1936.

It is important to remember that in keeping with sportsmanship, the struggle for equal representation between the Indian Clubs and the M. C. C. brought us closer together than ever before. A new camaraderie developed between Englishmen and Indians just as it did in the other fields of activity in Indiia. Today the M. C. C. is managed and run mostly by Indians who have joined in as members.

We were the first to get a coach, Wensley from Eggland to come and stay here and train young hopefuls at Chepauk.

My own association as a cricketer with Chepauk has been long and pleasant. I played a number of friendly matches mostly for my old club, the Mylapore Recreation Club. It was in Chepauk that I played for the Combined Colleges against M.C.C. in 1928 and it was on the same ground that I scored my century for the Junior side before our tour of Mysore. I can picture to my mind good old Denniston bowling slow balls tempting the batsmen to hit and get caught in the deep.

It behoves sportsmen all over South India to preserve the Cricket Club which has been the Nursery not only for first class cricketers but also good sportsmen. I am glad the Madras Cricket Association is back in Chepauk. May it augur the gathering of sportsmen in greater numbers than ever before.

DASAPRAKASH

We are very happy to hear that the Madras Cricket Club is celebrating its 120th Anniversary Celebrations. The motto that we, in Dasaprakash Group follow is service above all and knowing the history of Madras Cricket Club we know that it has served a wide community of sportsmen by fostering and encouraging sports like Cricket, Tennis, Hockey.

It has built up an enviable record which we would like to emulate. We therefore have the greatest pleasure in wishing the anniversary celebrations success and many happy returns to the Club.

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The Madras M. C. C. and its contribution to Cricket, Tennis and Hockey in Madras

By C. RAMASWAMI

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The M.C C, Chepauk, was a close preserve of the European residents of Madras till about the end of the first decade of the century. From a look at the engravings of names of Cricketers on the wooden panel of the walls of the pavilion, it will be observed that the earliest visitors who played on M. C. C. were from Calcutta in 1865. However it appears that a regular annual fixture between the M.C C. and an All Ceylon Cricket team had been played, alternatively at Madras and Calcutta from 1885 to 1909. S. P. Foenander, Sports Editor of the Ceylon Observer, Colombo, who was a well known writer in Ceylon, had written in 1955 that "Ceylon's connection with Madras cricket dates back to 1885 when a purely European-Ceylon team played in Madras and Bangalore. Till the year 1909, only European teams from Ceylon visited Madras and played against the M.C.C. while European cricketers from Madras returned the compliment and played in this island".

I have a hazy recollection of having seen W. T. Greswell in action on the Chepauk grounds, playing for Ceylon against the M.C.C. He played havoc with the Madras batsmen and skittled them out for a paltry total, though P. W. Partridge, an outstanding batsman of the M.C.C. opened the innings and remained unbeaten with 91 runs to his credit. Greswell had played for Somerset before he left his country for Ceylon and might have played for England if he had remained there. He was a tall right-arm medium pace bowler with a graceful and smooth action. When I think of it now, he must have been moving the ball in the air and as per modern parlance, bowling off and leg-cutters, which non-plussed the Madras batsmen.

As a young schoolboy, in the early years of this century, I remember to have seen the M.C.C. members playing cricket on their lovely cricket ground and while passing along Bells Road, Wallajah Road and Canal Bund Road on the eastern side of the ground, I have noticed quite a large number of men and women playing tennis on about 7 or 8 courts on the western side of the club. I have also watched them playing hockey on the eastern wing of the compound.

In those days, there were only a handful of Indian cricket clubs in Madras of which the M.U.C. was the best. My father, Sri M. Buchi Babu, was a founder member and led M.U.C. Cricket team till he died in 1908. He had an array of very good cricketers who had made name for themselves in Madras and elsewhere. Of these Jayaram of Bangalore and K. Sheshachary were outstanding. They had the unique honour of going to England in 1910 with a team from Bombay. It must have been an extraordinary gesture on the part of the Bombay people because they thought and even now think, that good cricket existed only in Bombay and nowhere-else in India. Jayaram was a brilliant right-handed batsman, particularly strong on the off-side. His powerful drives and cuts were a delight to watch. He was also a brilliant fielder. Sheshachary was an outstanding wicket-keeper who made a name for himself in England.

My father had evidently realised in 1908 that a combined Indian cricket team of Madras could put up a good show against the Europeans of Madras and so had negotiated with P. W. Partridge, the captain of the M.C.C. to

stage a Presidency match between the Europeans and the Indians. Obviously tired of playing among themselves, Partridge readily agreed to do so. Unfortunately, my father died in 1908 but B. Subramaniam, the trusted lieutenant of his took it up and played the match. B. S. Ramulu, who had just then returned from Clifton, a Public School in England, had developed into a good batsman and a brilliant fielder. He was elected as captain of the Indian side. The match was unfortunately abandoned owing to heavy rains.

However the Presidency matches became a regular annual fixture in Madras from 1916 onwards through the untiring and persistent efforts of B. Subramaniam. The best cricketers available in Madras were selected to play and this definitely gave an impetus to the spread, progress and development of cricket in South India. Though they were known as Presidency matches, very often outstanding players from outside Madras State were also invited to play. The late Sri S. K. Gurunathan, the Sports Editor of the 'Hindu" and "Sport & Pàstime" wrote in 1955, "The standard of cricket witnessed in the Presidency matches was very high-sometimes higher than the present day Test matches—and we had on both sides players whose skill would shine in the highest company in any part of the world. This series of matches was in those days looked upon as the biggeest event of the year and the goal and ambition of every budding cricketer was to play in these matches, some day. The Presidency match necessarily played a great part in the development of the game in Madras".

The Presidency matches and along with it, cricket in Madras, got a tremendous impetus with the appearance of the late Col. C. K. Nayudu in 1921. He had already established his name and fame as the most attractive and delightful bat in Nagpur, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and other important cricket-playing centres of India. As expected by the cricketers and the cricket-loving public of Madras, he made a most magnificient 128 runs on his first appearance on the Chepauk ground which included a mighty six from the Wallajah end to the Old Engineering Côllege ground, which, I am told measures nearly 120 yards.

Just about the time when negotiations were going on for playing Presidency cricket matches, attempts were also made to create closer and more friendly relationship beween the Europeans and the Indian players. Upto 1914, there were three important tennis tournaments played in Madras. They were the M.U.C. the S.I A A. and the M.C.C. tournaments. The M.C.C. Tournament was open only to Europeans. J. G. Ramaswami Naidu, member in charge of Tennis in the M. U. C. made bold to invite some of the best European tennis players to play in the M. U. C. tournament and they readily agreed to do so. As a reciprocal gesture, that M.C.C. had also made its tournament an open tournament irrespective of colour, race or nationality. This was, indeed, a step in the right direction and since 1915, these three major tournaments had established themselves as leading Tennis Championships of S. India. Later on, not only the best tennis players from all over India but some of the world's best players played in Madras. To name a few, G. P. Hughes, the England Davis Cup player. Puncec and Pallada of Wimbledon and continental fame J. Drobny, once Wimbledon champion and a host of others visited India and played in Madras.

Among the European tennis players of Madras, Nigel Jones, Lt. Hutchins and Oliver of Malaya were outstanding while K. P. Lakshman Rao, N. Narayanamurthy, T. B. Balagopal, T. G. Singaravelu and a few other were well-known Indian players in Madras in the early twenties of the century. As in cricket, tennis in the M.C.C., M.U.C., and the S.I.A.A. lost importance as soon as the Madras State Tennis Association was set up. The centre of attraction shifted to the Egmore Stadium. R. Krishnan rose to great heights and Madras should legitimately feel proud of having pro-

duced the brightest and best tennis player of India who has not only become one of the best tennis stars of the world but has also earned the undisputed recognition of being a player with exemplary manners and behaviour on and off the court.

Hockey was also one of the major games played on the Chepauk ground for well over 60 years. Before the Madras State Hockey Association was started, the M.C.C. Tournament was the most important and well organised tournament in Madras. Even though the M. C. C. players were not great experts at Hockey, every European, more particularly, every Britisher, who came to Madras, made it a point to play hockey and as many other games as possible. This was not only because they wanted exercise but their keen and earnest desire to contribute their best for their club, induced every young man to learn the games and do his best for the club team.

I wonder if the present day young men who are members of the M.C C. could say with a clear conscience that they are as loyal and serviceable to this club as their predecessors were in the early days.

Among the hockey players who had played for the M.C.C., the most outstanding player was Summerhayes, an Oxford Blue. He played centre-half and was indeed a great player. There were, no doubt, a host of other hockey players who played for the Anglo Indian Sports, Club, M. & S.M. Railway, Telegraphs Sports and Recreation Club ; Y.M.I.A, M.U.C. and other clubs. The most outstanding hockey player of the early twenties was A. Ramaswamy (better known as 'Commet' in sporting circles. If he had only come to prominence after the national and international contests got going he would have been a certain choice for any Indian Eleven. M. J. Gopalan, was his worthy successor who became an international at Hockey and Cricket.

The next most important landmark in the history of cricket in Madras was the visit of A.E.R. Gilligan's team from England in 1927. In the match played by a Madras team and the visiting team, the brilliant bowling performance of C. R. Ganapathy, who had by then become a veteran and was on the eve of retirement from cricket was noteworthy. He took 5 for 72 and 4 for 77 against such world class players as Sandham, Wyatt, Brown (wicket-keeper-batsman.) Parsons, Geary and others. Mohammed Hussain of Hyderabad scored 93 and 60 runs. A very interesting incident in that match was when Ren Nailer scored about 50 runs against such well-known bowlers as Maurice Tate, Geary, Mercer Boyes, Astill and others. Maurice Tate remarked to some of the M.C.C. players that Nailer was not a batsman and if he batted again he would not get a single run. Fortunately for Nailer he got a chance of playing in the second innings when he again made over 50 runs. Tate had to eat his own words and concede that though Nailer was not an orthodox bat, he scored because of his keen eyesight, quick foot-work and powerful wrist. After the visit of Gilligan's team to Madras, cricket gained popularity tremendously and everywhere school boys, street urchins and college students took to the game seriously and the number of members in clubs where cricket was played went up by leaps and bounds.

The late Maharajkumar of Vijayanagaram, better knows as "Vizzy" to the cricket-loving public brought his team to Madras in 1931 which included Hobbs and Sutcliffe, the world renowned opening batsmen of England. Gopalan created a sensation by taking the wicket of Hobbs in both the innings. However, it was an object lesson and a treat to watch Hobbs and Sutcliffe run between the wickets. Before the fieldsmen and the spectators knew what was happening, 80 runs were on the board. They were mostly singles and two's and Hobbs, in particular never looked as though he was making any strokes, but the score was mounting up. It was no wonder, therefore, that these two batsmen had become

world famous. They had scored often over 260 runs for no loss for England against almost all the cricket-playing countries in the world.

The next phase in the history of cricket in India which brought about a revolutionary change was the setting up of the Board of control for Cricket in India in 1931 followed up by starting of State cricket associations in important cricket-playing States of India. This had not only enabled cricket to be played on organised and systematic lines but cricketers in different parts of the country were brought closer together which necessarily created a competitive spirit and friendly rivalry among them. As soon as these organisations were set up a National Tournament known as the 'Ranji' Trophy matches was started. Madras State team should feel proud that it made its debut in Ranji Trophy matches in a unique manner. The first match was played against Mysore on the Chepauk ground in 1934 and most unfortunately for them it rained heavily on the night before the match and there was bright sunshine in the morning of the day of the match which made the M C.C. pitch a veritable glue spot. C. P. Johnstone, the skipper of the Madras team won the toss and put Mysore in to bat. Ram Singh and Johnstone were in devastating form and skittled out the Mysore team for 48 runs. Madras made 130 runs out of which N. N. Swarna, Gopalan and myself made 22, 23 and 23 runs, respectively. This was because we threw caution to the winds and used the long handle, as that was the only way of batting on such a wicket. Mysore fared a little better in the second innings and made 50 runs. Ram Singh again took 5 wickets for 20 runs. Thus my first Ranji Trophy match was memorable and unique in many respects. Many State teams have won the coveted trophy but so for no one has beaten this wonderful performance of Madras. I am proud of my contribution in the match as I not only scored 23 runs—the highest in the match, but also took 4 catches in the first innings and one in the second.

The first official tour of an England team was in 1934 under the captaincy of D. R. Jardine. It was indeed a formidable team, strong in all departments of the game. Moreover, Jardine was an astute captain, keen on winning by any means. His over-zealous desire to win by any means made him one of the most controversial cricketers and not only had he to retire from Test cricket after the well known body line tactics adopted by him in Australia but he brought the career of Larwood one of the fastest bowlers of England to an abrupt end.

Since Jardine's team toured in India, 4 official Tests and 5 unofficial Tests were played on the Chepauk ground. The last Test match played at Chepauk before the M.C.A. had shifted their activities to the Corporation Stadium was in 1952 against Pakistan.

In conclusion, may I point out quite frankly even at the risk of being considered presumptuous and impertinent, whether the present day members of the club are doing everything possible to uphold the reputation of the club as the premier club for games in Madras. There are no two opinions to the fact that the club provides the best amenities for playing cricket, tennis, hockey, squash rackets, etc. Are they being utilised - in the best interest of the club? As soon as we got independence and the European, particularly, the British members, were gradually retiring and going back home, the Indian members were shouldering the responsibilities of managing and running the club. I have been a member of the club till 1960 or 1961 and I know that senior member of the club like A. R. Srinivasan, V. R. Lakshminathan, K. S. Vaidyanathan, V. Pattabhiraman, P. Krishnaswami (better know as Reptile Krishnaswami) and others were doing their best to keep up the reputation and standard of games played in the club but since they had given place to the younger generation of members, are the active members emulating them. I know there are many Ranjit Trophy cricketers in the club but are they giving their services to the club as they ought to? I have heard from

INDIA CEMENTS

We in India Cements are very happy to hear that the Madras Cricket Club is celebrating its 120th Anniversary Celebrations this week. Though it may not be apparent there is a close bond between us and the Madras Cricket Club. In India Cements, we are engaged in the manufacture of construction material which helps to build factories, roads, townships and houses where people can live in comfort and ease. The Madras Cricket Club has been engaged over the last 120 years in building, as the latin philosopher wanted, clean minds and sound bodies. May success attend your efforts in the years to come.

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reliable sources that the office bearers are finding it difficult even to raise a decent team for league matches. Legitimately, the M.C.C. should top the league matches as they have the necessary material to do so. When Richmond had retired from Government service after completing 55 years, he played in Presidency matches and C. P. Johnstone was 52 when he went back home in 1948 and yet he was playing for the M. C. C. till he left Madras. Let me therefore suggest that the members of the M. C. C. should solemnly resolve on this unique occasion that all of them would do everything possible by lending their personal services to uphold and keep up the long and great traditions of the club.

Conversation with Krishnan

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A conversation with Krishnan is always a rewarding experience because Krishnan reveals as much sharpness in his observations as in any one of his stop-volleys. We generally discussed his career starting with his debut in Davis Cup tennis in Australia in 1953 against Brichant of Belgium to his recent Davis Cup match against Arthur Ashe a fortnight ago. I asked Krishnan what he considers the highlights of his tennis career. He told me that there were two occasion which could never be duplicated for the thrill and excitement they give him. The first of course was his first Davis Cup appearence for India in Australia in 1951. He mentioned that he felt thrilled and excited but not nervous and therefore he was able to win the first 2 sets against a much more experienced player like Brichant. Thereafter of course Brichant brought into play his considerable experience of Davis Cup matches and ultimately triumphed over Krishnan.

The next occasion according to Krishnan which gave him a similar thrill and excitment was his first appearance at Wimbledon as a junior in 1952. The experience of playing on the "sacred" grass for the first time has no equal to any other experience says Krishnan.

T. M. Srinivasan : What do you think is the best match that you have played ?

Krishnan : Do you mean my best tennis or from the point of view of excitement.

TMS : I mean your best tennis.

K: Undoubtedly my game against Neale Fraser in 1959 at Queen's Club. That day I could do nothing wrong—I served well—I volleyed well and I was in good touch.

TMS: What do you think is the most exciting match you have played ?

K: Definitely the match against Koch in 1966 in the Davis Cup tie against Brazil at Calcutta. In that match I played very patchy tennis and when Koch led 5-2 in the final set I decided to change my tactical play. I had to go for outright winners, and that as you know is always a risk. Anyhow it paid off that day. I was very happy not only that I had won this match but also, that to some extent, I was responsible for India entering the challenge round for the first time.

TMS: According to you in your 15 years experience in world tennis whom do you consider the 15 best players you have seen ?

K: The following 15 players and out of the 15 in my personal opinion Laver is the most outstanding.

1. Gonzales
2. Sedgman
3. Segura
4. Savitt
5. Drobny
6. Rosewall
7. Santana
8. Fraser
9. Laver
10. Ashe
11. Trabert
12. Seixas
13. Patty
14. Hoad
15. Emerson

All of them had the skill, the determination and will to win in almost equal measure. But Laver had one extra quality a cool tempera-

Message from An Industry in Madras

We are very glad to hear that the Madras Cricket Club is celebrating its 120th Anniversary celebrations from 14th December to 21st December 1968. We are well aware that the Madras Cricket Club has been the premier club in South India, as far as sporting activities are concerned. As an Industry, we also believe that it is not enough to merely create prosperity but also equally important is the necessity to provide healthy avenues of recreation. In this context, the role played by the Madras Cricket Club is outstanding. We therefore have great pleasure in conveying our felicitations to the Madras Cricket Club on its 120th Anniversary and to wish it continued success in the years to come.

ment that enabled him to adapt his tactics even at a very critical juncture, For example often facing a match point he would still go for winners against players like Fraser, Cooper etc. Personally, I will never forget the semi final match I played against him at Wimbledon in 1961. Till that match I had beaten Laver in almost all our earlier encounters. The conditions on that day were also suitable to me with a warm sun shining on the emerald grass of the Wimbledon Centre Court. It was of course a little windy but that was a disadvantage that would affect both players. In the first set both of us started nervously losing our services and the score was 2—all. At this point the 'rocket' came in to his own and started reeling off a number of winners on both flanks. Previously when I had played him, I had been able to play deep into Laver's back-hand and come to the net to intercept. Now I found that Laver had developed a variety of shots on his back-hand and I was repeatedly passed and finally overwhelmed.

TMS: Do you think that the standard of professional tennis is much higher than amateur tennis ?

K: I have already written at length on this subject elsewhere but I will summarise it for you by saying that the results of the last open tournament held at Forest Hills is ample proof that the gap is narrow.

TMS: How do you account for this ?

K: Apart from the high standard of tennis played by the leading amateurs like Ashe, Okker and others, once the professionals enter the court they have now got so much used to play the game for a stake, that they restrict their effort to what is strictly necessary. This affects the competitive edge of their play.

TMS: Talking of Ashe you recently played against him. What is your opinion about his future ?

K: Undoubtedly Ashe is one of the great players of the game and I think with a little more experience particularly on slower surfaces he will really mature into a real top performer.

TMS: You have always been described a touch artist. Who is the greatest touch artist you have seen ?

K: Gonzales in my opininon is the greatest touch player in post-war years. Gonzales was one of the unique players in the game who by a combination of good touch, sound tennis, and a good serve became one of the greatest players of the game. When I say good I want to emphasise that he was not outstanding in any one department of the game but was equally competent in all of them.

TMS: One more question. What do you think of the future of Indian tennis ?

K: At present we have promising youngsters like Anand Amrithraj, Gaurav Misra and others. But it is not enough to have a handful of youngsters. A big country like India should be able to throw up at least 100 youngsters with potential, only then can we produce a real champion.

As Krishnan was answering the question, I looked out through the window and saw this 6 year old son Ramesh striding out into tennis court, racket in hand and a purposeful look on his young face.

"There goes the future of India's tennis," I said and Krishnan laughingly nodded his head, as though in agreement.

THE ANALYSIS OF A CATCH

By P. N. SUNDARESAN

[Dedicated to C. P. Jonstone, in memory of his astounding catch in the slips to dismiss Keith Miller off the bowling of Ghulam Ahmed]

★

To respond to the request of the Secretary of the Madras Cricket Club for an article to be published in the souvenir to be brought out on its 120th anniversary has been embarrassing for me. My relations with the Club have only been as a visiting cricketer as a member of the Mylapore Recreation Club and later on as a pressman. Certainly I cannot call this intimate enough to entitle me to write an article celebrating a very homely function.

Then the thought struck me that most of the enjoyment that cricket in Madras has given me was at Chepauk, which till the other day, was concomitant with the M. C. C. I felt that as a member of the 'club' consisting of this vast concourse of people I had acquired a standing to write this article. In a way I even feel it is a repayment of a debt which I owe to the famous place.

My best and warmest of memories of Chepauk—I am using this description for the entire area including the Club—have been as one of a group of young lawyers who assembled under the shade of a spreading tree on the southern part of the ground and east of the sight-screen. Standing all day on a "gallery of roots," we watched many matches, held discussions on the merits and demerits of players, and debated many a fine point that arose from day to day. From here we watched enthralled the excellence of M. Sathasivam, the fleeting footwork and crashing drives of Lala Amarnath, the wristy magic of C. K. Nayudu, the charm of Cyril Walters, the Governor-Generalship' of Charlie Macartney, the delight of Joe Hardstaff, the big hiting of Wellard and the malignity with which Weeks and Walcott thrashed the ball. We would discuss the subtle flight of Vinoo Mankad that drew Frank Worrell to his doom, the nonchalance with which the great Amar Singh dismissed the batsmen or flicked tbe ball for a six and the discomfiture of Vijay Merchant at the hands of Ghulam Ahmed while Amarnath hit an imperious century before lunch at the other end.

I would like to make the discussion on a particular day, when there was an epidemic of dropped catches, the subject of this article. It was sparked off when one put forward his view that catching was a simple matter—you just walk in, the ball is hit to you, you close your hands, and, lo and behold, there is a catch! The pros and cons of catching were then thoroughly analysed, bringing into the discussion the best of our legal education with the result that a "verbal paper" was finally produced. And, here is the "paper" reproduced from memory.

Just as under the criminal law every crime has the stages of motive preparation, attempt and the finale, so also in bringing off (or dropping) a catch there are stages of preparation attempt and the result. The result of an attempt to catch a hit (or a snick or deflection or diversion as the commentator sees it) depends to a large extent on the preparation. There is also the preparation stage when your concentration must be on the game in the middle; if your eyes are pre-occupied with the colour and gaiety outside the "ring" you will suddenly awaken to the awful truth of a hit coming n your direction, and you may have to skip, for want of time, the stage of preparation to that

Mohammed Ebrahim Group of Companies

Jointly wish to congratulate the Madras Cricket Club on the completion of 120 years of existence - a period during which the Madras Cricket Club has been responsible for developing Cricket, Tennis, Hockey and other games in Madras. All these sports owe much to the patronage extended by the Madras Cricket Club and we in the Mohammed Ebrahim Group of Companies have tried to adopt in our own industries the qualities of SELFLESS SERVICE that have spread the name of the club far beyond its frontiers. We wish the club all success in the years to come.

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Kel Components, Ambattur

of attempt—the result being inevitably disastrous unless you are the one-man-in-a-million whose very mistakes are his fortune.

Let us take it that everything is alright in the pre-preparation stage and the eyes are riveted on the field of play. A powerful hit has sent the ball across towards you at breath-taking pace, and your complacency is disturbed by the thought that you must prepare to catch it. But there is no time for thinking and you begin to move backward or forward in a frantic attempt to locate the position from which you can take the catch. Constantly assailed by doubts and misgivings—it is really amazing how much fear, perturbation, doubt and a thousand other feelings can be packed into a few moments—you shift uncomfortably on your legs till the ball whizzes past and lands with a thud within a few feet of you!

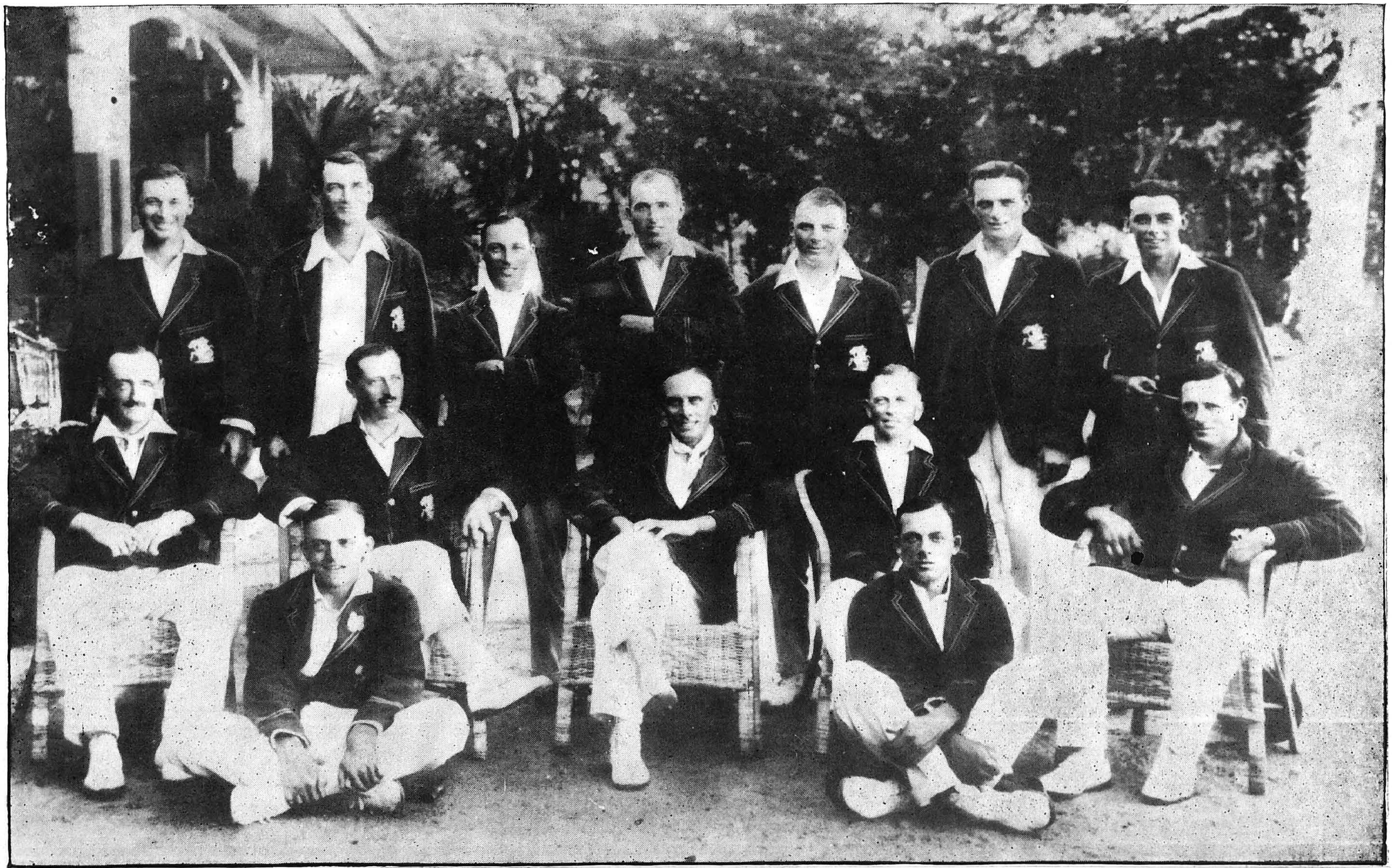
Though an attempt may or may not end in a catch nobody is conciously aware of the manner in which an attempt is accomplished—not even the player. You just hear and feel a thud on your chest, your hands cross over the spot by biological reflex action and then you hear a shout. If the shout is an approbation you are aware that you have brought forth a catch, But if it is an unanimous "Oh!" something sinks in your stomch, and despite yourself your eyes search the ground for the ball, and, to borrow a phrase from politics, you see red. The same reflex action follows whether the ball lands on your belly, or hand or palms. But only when you catch the ball in your palms will the purists acclaim you have made a perfect catch as though there is something unedifying or ignoble in catching with the help of other parts of the body.

And now we come to the final stage of the art—the result, If the catch has been made, a pleasurable sensation courses through your veins, the blood pressure rises, making you feel the most important man in the field and the catch the best accomplished till then; untill another ball comes down on you, and through you to the ground, knocking out in its course all the vanity induced by the previous catch. But woe unto the man who, in modern, phraseology, puts the ball on the floor (or carpet)! An acute sense of agony seizes him and makes, him wish that he had never taken to the game while from all round noises echo his feelings. Only on one other occasion similar nausea takes hold of the player—when like a conquering hero he approaches the wicket, completes an elaborate manoeuvere of the field, takes stance, and finds himself dismissed first ball. But this sufferer has at least a way out; at the end of the longest walk of a cricketer he can disappear inside the pavilion and make others forget him as some more zeroes are added to the list, after which he can make his appearance and join in the general condemnation of the umpire and the pitch. But no such way of escape is open to the man who has dropped a catch, he has to suffer the consequences all through the opposing innings (which seems interminable) and is condemned without a hearing to the jeers of the multitude. He could make amends by bringing off another catch, but he finds to his chagrin that no more catches come his way that day or if they do come they are so difficnlt that he misses them again and again, intensifying the agony of his soul.

When missing a catch a player always likes to be near the wicket, say slip, gully, or short-leg. In the first place he has the advantage of the distance between him and the onlookere. Next, catches that come to such positions always appear difficult, despite their intrinsic simplicity. Just watch two men at the slips after a ball has buzzed through the gap between them The first slip will stretch his hand and mutter it is a bit too low or too far; the second will also do likewise and agree with him. Meanwhile the onlookers by the gesticulations of these gentlemen, get the impression that the catch was a difficult one, even for Gary Sobers. Yes, catches in short positions are always "difficult," even easy ones, while catches in the deep are always "easy," even when they are difficult ones.

There is one other aspect of this science. It is not always that a player catches the ball; many times the reverse happens and is jocularly described as "the ball having caught the player". It is at such times that a "magnificient", or "superb" or "brilliant" or "grand" or "marvellous" catch occurs. But it is difficult to appreciate the use of the adjectives, for whether a player catches the ball or vice versa, the result is the same.

So it is clearly absurd to jeer and boo when a catch is missed. A catch is so coy, uncertain and elusive that no man can be blamed for not taking it, though certainly we will all take off our hats to the one who draws the ball to his palms by skill or magic. When next you see a catch missed, try to remember that there is a catch in it, Don't allow the tip of your nose to move upwards to indulge in the luxury of a sniff.



Gilligan's team in Madras. Match played at Chepauk ground. M.C.C., 1926—1927

Standing L. R. : J. Mercer, G. Brown, A. Sandham, G. Geary, M. L. Hill, G. S. Boyes, M. W. Tate.

Sitting L. R. : J. H. Parsons, Major R. C. Chichester-Constable, A. E. R. Gilligan, W. E. Astill, G. F. Earle.

On the Ground : P. T. Eckerslay, R. E. S. Wyatt.

Letter from J. O. G. Barnes

★

Dear Sir,

My very hearty congratulations to the Cricket Club on its 120th anniversary and my best wishes for a happy and successful celebration week.

I have been asked to recount any anecdotes which took place in my time and which I think might interest members. The only one I can think of is that during my term of Presidentship, we received a request from the M. C. C. Lord's Cricket ground for a picture of our ground. It had been addressed to all clubs all over the world on whose grounds Test matches had been played.

At that time Paul Raj was, and probably still is, the most eminent artist in South India and I asked him if he could come along one Saturday afternoon to discuss the matter and to make a rough sketch for the painting. I chose a Saturday because the "B" team would be playing and I thought the picture would be more alive if it contained a game actually in progress.

Paul Raj, very graciously, accepted the commission and, in due course sent a pencil sketch along. As I felt that some of the fieldsmen were not strictly in the right positions notably the slips who I thought were too deep, I made some corrections and sent the sketch along to Bolo (D. V. Bulloch of Binny's who was Vice-President that year). He also made some alterations to the field and sent sketch back to Paul Raj.

We waited some weeks and as nothing further happened I rang up Paul Raj and spoke to his brother who told me that Paul Raj was annoyed because he did not like his sketches being messed about and that he would prefer to give up the commission. Anyway after a little argument he carried on with the work and the result now hangs in the museum at the Lord's along with the pictures of all other Test match grounds all over the world.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
JACK BARNES

Thoughts on Chepauk

By R. S. MODI

★

Chepauk, lovely Chepauk! Mention of the word Chepauk makes me reminisce and the happy memories of the past come crowding to my mind.

I have many pleasant memories of this lovely ground and, as it happens, the best innings played by me during my career also happens have been at Chepauk. This was against Hassett's Australians in 1945, when I scored 203. Chepauk is an ideal cricket ground surrounded by a lovely setting. The wicket gives equal opportunity to the bat as well as the ball and if India had several such wickets we would not be starved of opening bowlers and batsmen.

It is a pleasure to play at Chepauk because of the knowledgeable crowd. The old Petite pavilion reminds one of the County grounds in England. Soon the scenery will be gone when a concrete jungle like the Brabourne will be raised. I however trust the inveterate cricket spirit of Chepauk will still remain.

If Sobers could hit up

365 not out

why can't the M. C. C.?

Here's wishing the M. C. C. along, bright innings of the same dash and glory that have marked its first 120

Trayons

The Travancore Rayons Limited, Madras-2

My Memories of Chepauk

By VIJAY HAZARE

For me Chepauk has always been a lucky ground. Whenever I go into a reverie, my mind flashes back to the Chepuk ground of which I have the most pleasant memories. Some of my happiest have been spent on that lovely emerald green turf.

I am not likely to forget that brilliantly sunny and cool February afternoon in 1952, when I had the honour of leading India to our First ever Test Victory that was against England and our maiden triumph came after many humiliations, frustrations and lost opportunities extending over a span of 25 Tests and victory at last! We won by an innings and as I led the team back to the pavilion, the whole Chepuk ground rose to applaud India for the success.

In the past, we had several outstanding performances which were usually 'solo' feats by proven players. But here our main batting heroes were a couple of youngsters playing their first Test series. They were Roy and Umrigar each of whom hit up a hundred. The main destroyer of our opponents was of course the 'old reliable' Vinoo Mankad supported by Gulam Ahmed.

It was the proudest day of my cricketing career. In Nepoleon's time, whenever a general was due for promotion, the fabulous Emperor used to ask "Is he lucky"? He could not have had a better example than myself. I had my first essay as a captain in an official Test series and I was lucky to lead my side to victory. The President and the Prime Minister graciouly sent their felicitations to me on India's victory. It was indeed a red letter day in my life,

Lady Luck who is at time fond of curious tricks had actually smiled on me a couple of years earlier and by a strange coincidence the site of my triumph was no other place than 'Chepauk'. This time I was the captain of the Indian side which won the match and the rubber in the unofficial Test series against the First Commonwealth team led by Jock Livingstone and which included that great cricketer, the late Sir Frank Worrell. It was an exciting match and fortunes fluctuated tantalisingly several times and in the end we emerged successful by a narrow margin of 3 wickets, when Mustaq Ali came out with a fractured finger and made the winning hit. I was amongst the runs and managed to be the top scorer in both the innings. After our win, pandemonium broke out, and the very enthusiastic and knowledgeable crowd surrounded us to offer their congratulations and when these things are in a mass scale, you can imagine the sore state of our backs and our plight when we at last reached the dressing room.

I have yet another happy memory of the Chepauk ground and that goes as far back as 1941, when I was a member of the Maharashtra side that won the Ranji Trophy against Madras. The all-conquering Maharashtra had a spectacular record in the Ranji Trophy in 1940 and 1941 and went on piling huge totals match after match. So when we played against Madras, we started as favourites but the Chepauk wicket gave a lot of assistance to the bowlers and after bundling out Madras for paltry 145, we fared no better and were 113 for 6 at one stage. I then played what I consider to be my most valuable innings in the Ranji Trophy and obtained a century. In the end we took a substantial lead and went on to win comfortably. For the first time I was a member of a side that had won the Trophy twice in succession and I was fortunate enough to contribute my mite to the victory. I shall always remember Chepuk with nostaliga.

LET US PLAY CRICKET

By BERTIE WIJESINHA

★

What prompts such a venerable and conservative body as the Marylebone Cricket Club to alter and amend the laws of cricket ever so often? What causes this august and wise organisation, renowned for its staid, precise and studied approach to the game to so want to experiment with this law and the other? Over the last few years, I believe, there have been more changes than in the last two or three decades.

No doubt, changes *are* necessary for progress, and seemingly outdated laws *do* need revision. Such an instance was illustrated by the concession to captains to declare their innings closed on the first day of a match at any time. The 90 minutes batting provision for the other side was dispensed with. It was a change for the better.

But, for the most part, I would venture to say, that laws have been revised and amended, notes added and by–laws appended to meet increasing attempts, at various times and places, by players to circumvent the law. The curse of throwing, for example, reared its ugly head some years ago threatening to become an epidemic.

Strong opinion and stern action brought it to a halt. But did they eradicate the menace? I think not. The M.C.C. thought it fit to amend the law, thereby causing worse confusion. The old law, as it stood, was perfectly clear and simple to understand. The law (or experimental law) as it is worded today, is vague and difficult of interpretation.

No, there is no gain saying the sad and deplorable fact that ideals of sportsmanship are being increasingly ignored.

In ancient Athens and later in Rome, sport was a manly thing and the victor received his garland and his laurel crown. No gold medals or filthy lucre stained his hands or warped his perspective. Sports and games were a means to an end in the building up and admiration of the body beautiful. It prompted the love of outdoor recreation ; of health and nature.

" *Mens sana in corpore sano,* " meant what it said. Professionalism gradually crept in, and with professionalism came parochial, commercial and later political influences, to subvert a game into warfare, the survival of the fittest carried on to a degree of cut-throat competition in the eternal rat-race. Man's love for sport was warped into exploiting that love for gain. Profit making became the motive, encouraged and inspired by the powerful publicity-conscious commercial press.

The press provided the publicity, and the publicity in turn provided the player with opportunity to convert the publicity into cash. If this was legitimately done, well and good. After all, skill can be set as a value if a man's career depends on it.

But the unscrupulous once again exploited the situation. Big names meant big money. Big names even invaded the ranks of writers and commentators, so that not the ability to write but the drawing power of a name mattered more. With this invasion of the Press Box by players, came the biggest blow to sport, the glorification of the individual at the expense of the game.

" Set the game beyond the prize, set honour before renown......" became mere words, unfamiliar. seldom heard.

MADRAS RUBBER FACTORY

We are very happy to learn that the Madras Cricket Club is celebrating its 120th Anniversary. To the casual observer, it may seem a far cry from Madras Rubber to the Madras Cricket Club but in fact we both are engaged in one fundamental objective — creating in our case better amenities for human living and in your case — amenities for human recreation. One is inseparable from the other. We therefore believe we are partners in a joint enterprise and we have great pleasure therefore in wishing you well on your 120th Anniversary Celebrations.

Madras Rubber Factory Ltd.,
"CHUN BUILDINGS",
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MADRAS-2

All this leads me to my real point-the departure from sport of the gracious spirit, particularly from cricket where winning and losing Test Matches now hears the equivalent in national pride of losing a total war. Woolley and his style; Spooner and batting elegance at its sublimest—adventure and skill epitomised by Trumper and Macartney: dignity and pantherish grace as illustrated by *Worrell* and all these things harnessed into one elegant whole by Jack Hobbs when shall we see the like!

Or am I asking for too much ? in this age of space and computors do I nostalgically yearn for the sailing ship and the gilded coach.

George Gunn, the story is told, did not relish staying too long at the batting crease. When he made a hundred, he did it quick. But in one particular match it became imperative that he stayed the whole day.

"Tha's working overtime, Skipper," he complained. "But if there's need for it, I 'll settle at £ 1 per hour extra". And he stayed five hours at the wicket till the danger had passed. That meant three hours longer than his usual two. He got his £ 3 and was happy.

Consider today the Horlick's awards and other such inducement's offered to successful players. Do these incentives help the game? Do they make for team-spirit and selfless comradeship?

Consider also the late Prince Duleep Sinhji. In his very first test innings for England against Australia, at Lord's in 1930, he scored 175 at the rate of 60 an hour. He got nothing for it. On the contrary he was chastised for " slow scoring ", and rebuked by his illustrious uncle Ranjit Sinhji at the end of the day". England will regret losing Duleep today, said the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar. England had topped the 400 mark, by then, the first day's play. And England did regret it. For Bradman and Australia won the Test by 8 wickets, Bradman scoring 254, in about two hours.

Those gracious days of the amateur cricket are gone when it was an honour to represent one's country regardless of the material gain. The ideals, I say, are being relegable into the background from where we may never be able to recover them, unless there can be inspired a new approach and new thinking. Let not the King of Games become the sport of mercenaries, who would alter the memorable lines we learnt and still cherish :

Ten to make and the last man in. PLAY DOWN, PLAY DOWN. *Who wants to win.* And Test Cricket has altered its motto. Not to lose seems to be of greater importance than to win.

MEMORIES OF CHEPAUK

By C. R. RANGACHARY

★

Madras Cricket Club and its famous grounds are well-known through out the cricket world. Many memorable matches have been played on this ground and the hockey tournaments have also witnessed a high standard.

As a Triplicanite. from my childhood, I always felt very close to this famous ground All my elders were very much interested in cricket. They used to discuss the matches played at Chepauk, about the wicket and about the way in which the ground was maintained and safeguarded.

When I was a young boy of 9 one evening I went to the M.C.C. I then had a chignon. I could not go anywhere near the club as I was chased out by a zealous groundsman. In the year 1926, the famous Engish cricket team captained by Sir Arthur Gilligan came to Madras. I was then 10 years old and was studying in the I Form. My class teacher who was no other than the father of Sri K. S. Narasimhan of press and tennis fame refused to permit me to go to the match. However, I took French leave and without the knowledge of my parents, I went to the cricket match seeing it through the Thatties. I no doubt saw first class cricketers in action, but also had to undergo a Ist class punishment at the hands of my teacher.

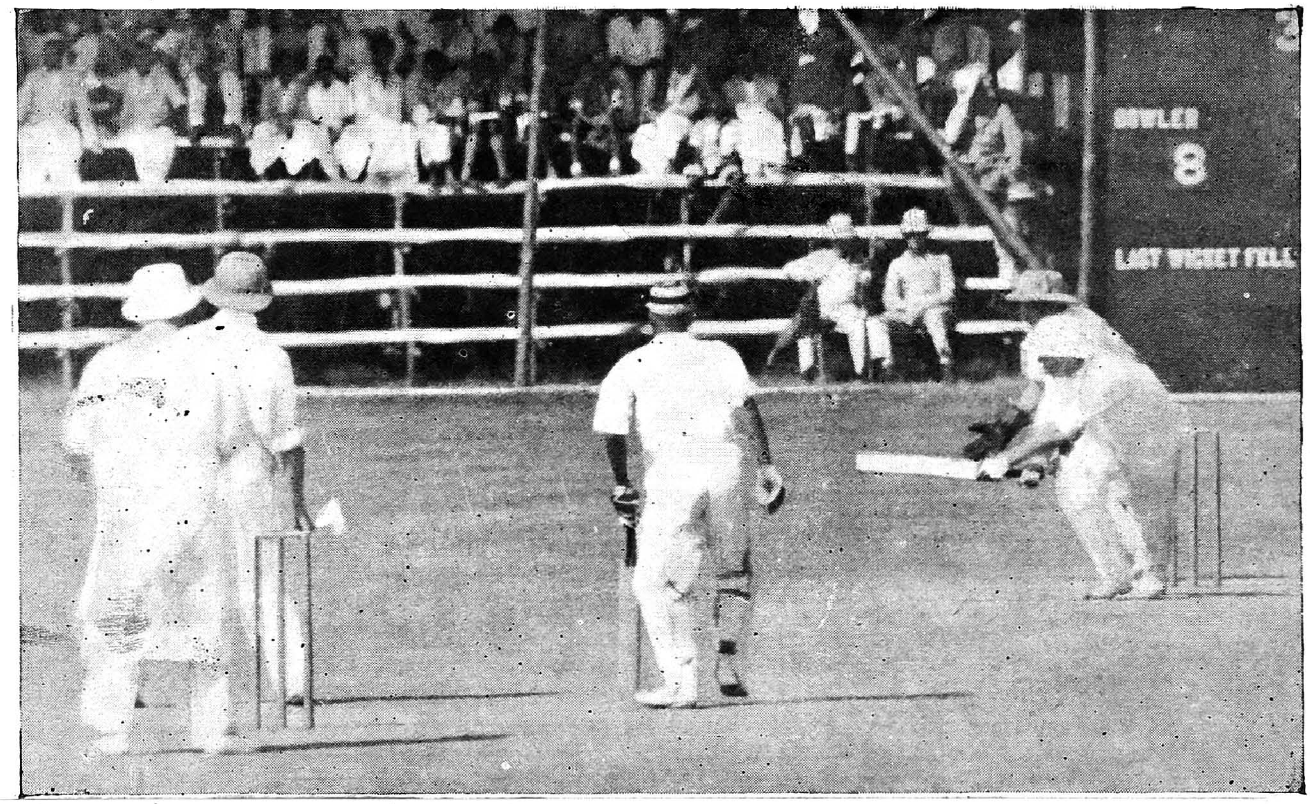
Thereafter, the annual Presidency match between the Indians and the Europeans played during Pongal holidays was the most important event of the cricket calendar.

About 10 members of my family used to go to these matches but I was afraid of asking my father. One year however my cousin and I who were in our teans, went along and managed to enter the ground without purchasing tickets. I then noticed perfect orderliness in the crowd. No one dare go anywhere near the boundary line as the European police sergeants were a terror.

The thought uppermost in my mind was to become a cricketer fit to play on the famous and lovely M. C. C. grounds. I was able to achieve it when I had the opportunity to play for the Triplicane Cricket Club in the league. During that period, Sir Daniel Richmond, if I remember correct, happened to be the President of the M. C. C. He looked after the ground as though it were a pet child. Not even European members including senior cricketers would have the courage to get into the grounds. It was maintained like the proverbial billiard top and it was no wonder that Sir Daniel objected to less conscientious people treading on it.

Later I was lucky to play for the Indians in the annual Presidency match and for the State in the Ranji Trophy. In those days, we had cricketers like C. P. Johnstone and H. P. Ward who would have been selected to represent any country. In addition, we had the great Sir Robert Denniston. They all took very keen interest in cricket. But for their help and affection, many cricketers would not have come up. Many cricketers who can claim this day of having represented India or Madras State, should never forget the love, affection, and encouragement shown to them by the old members of the M. C. C.

I was lucky enough to play both under and against my much respected skipper C. P. Johnstone. I can boldly state that I have never received anything but the kindest



C. P. Johnstone making a characteristic sweep to leg. Note his intense concentration on the ball.

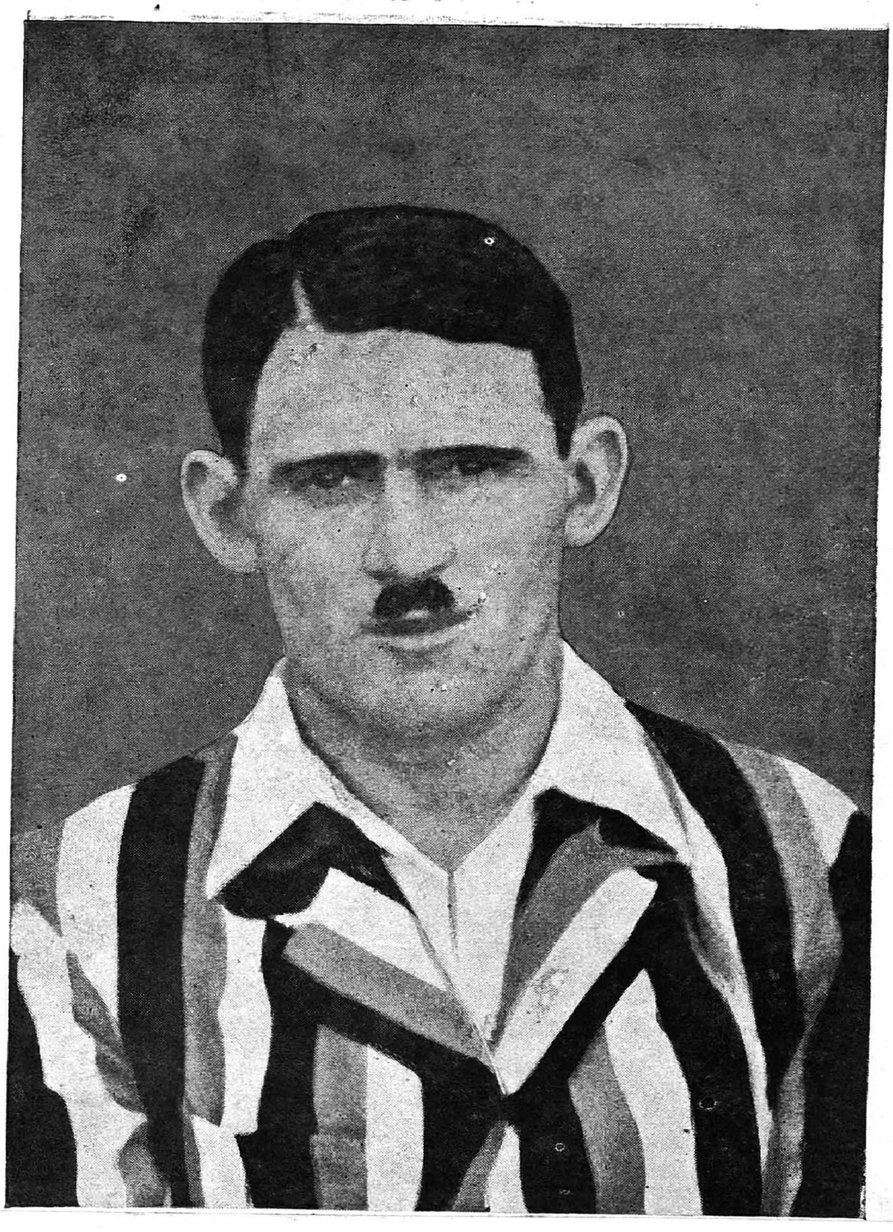
treatement at his hands. This restraint could be difficult on occasions for I remember an incident when M. S. Gopal fielding in the third man position rushed for the ball when it took a turn and went for a four. Johnstone's face became red but he did nothing more than glare at M. S. Gopal. All those who have played with Johnstone will also remember his little superstitions: If our team were to be in an uncomfortable position and if any two batsmen were to be playing and scoring well, Johnstone would be found standing at the entrance of the dressing room with a big Turkish towel tied round his waist. He would not also allow any of the team-mates seated in the pavilion to get up from their seats, while the two batsmen were still batting. Such was his interest in the fate of his team. He even pulled me up and took a promise from me that I would never more play foot-ball after seeing me play a foot-ball match on the M. U. C. grounds. This I was to realise later was in my own interest. The sporting public of Madras know N. J. Venkatesan, one of our fine all-rounders. He was also a good performer at the lunch table. In a particular match, he was bowling well when the luncheon break was called. My skipper Johnstone came to me and told me to keep N. J. Venkatesan away from the luncheon. Both Ram Singh and I were used to missing our lunches and by joining forces we were able to keep N. J. Venkatesan reasonably abstemious. This did have a salutary effect. After the break Venkatesan bowled even better. Johnstone took care to see that the lunch was kept in the refrigerator and later served to Venkatesan. I will recall another incident. Madras was playing against Hyderabad in 1944. Hyderabad took a slender lead of 4 runs in the 1st innings. Madras did very well in the second innings. In the second innings, Hyderabad were five wickets down when Bharath Chand and Durgaprasad came together at the crease. We thought we had ample runs and also enough time to get them out for an outright win. But Durgaprasad with his eye and grit never lifted his bat and whatever ball was bowled (full toss, short ball or good length) he would not risk his arm and was obviously playing to win by virtue of the first inning lead. Regular bowlers like, Gopalan, Ramsingh, and myself tried in vain to shatter his defence. I then took the liberty of approaching Johnstone with a suggestion to try Morris Robinson, our slow leg-spinner. He readily acceded to my request. I had an understanding with Morris that the 4th ball should be a full-toss. After delivering 3 balls, I turned and signalled to Morris who dully bowled a full-toss. I was fielding at the silly-mid-off position, practically within hand-shaking distance of the batsman and as soon as the ball left his bat, I hugged it to my chest. We then got the other four wickets more easily and won the match. All this may look as if I am unduly ladulatory about Johnstone. It is not so. It comes from the heart of a player who learnt much from him.

In one Presidency match Indians did well and Johnstone was out for a duck in the first innings. Cyril Reed who is one of the finest players, a member of the European team that year, forgot that he was also out for a duck in the first innings. During lunch Cyril pulled Johnstone's leg by saying "Con, I won't be surprised if you get spectacles". G. P. who was a member of the Indian team remarked to Cyril, "Look who's talking". Cyril immediately said that he would stake a bottle of whisky that he would not get out for a duck in the second innings. There was no prohibition then. As ill-luck would have it, Johnstone was out for a duck in the second innings also to my bowling. Cyril Reed came to bat and I was fielding at stilly-mid-off while Ram Singh was bowling. As Cyril came to the crease, I remarked "Here, comes your rabbit, Ram", to which Cyril retorted that he would murder me i. e., by hitting the ball hard: certainly one had to be very careful in fielding in that position when Cyril Reed was batting. He really could and often did hit very hard. Cyril hit the third ball hard but above the ground and

I was lucky to hold him at the silly-mid-off position. He called me the "Devil" as he went back to the pavilion. Cyril who is a great sport, did not stop with that. As soon as the day's match was over, he was ready with the whisky and handed it over to G. P. who shared it with all of us including Cyril.

I was also interested in hockey and never used to miss a hockey match or hockey tournament played on that wonderful ground. I have had the opportunity to play many hockey matches and tournaments also at Chepauk. One year, I remember while the M. C. C. tournament was on, the referees attached to the Madras Hockey Referees Association refused to umpire in the tournament. Some of the players, including myself filled the breach. Thus the action of the Referees Association of Madras did not deter the M.C.C. from conducting the hockey tournament that year.

As a sportsman who had many opportunities to play on that famous Chepauk ground, I hope and pray that the Madras Cricket Association, to whom this famous ground is now entrusted, will try to keep to the traditions of the old timers like Sir Daniel Richmond, Sir Robert Denniston and C. P. Johnstone. I most sincerely thank the Secretary of the M.C.C. for giving me this opportunity to share some of the memories of Chepauk. May I also wish the club and all the members every success.



The late H. P. Ward, played for Oxford and Yorkshire before coming to Madras—he could have played for England if he had stayed on in his county—a forceful batsman and brilliant wicket-keeper.

CHEPAUK MEMORIES

By K. S. RANGA RAO

★

From Sir Daniel Richmond to Peter Mercer is a far cry and I venture to write this article with mixed feelings of joy and sorrow because of the happy days spent at Chepauk and sorrow because a few of those who contributed to this joy are no more with us and few others have retired from service and gone back to the U. K.

M. C. C. is the second oldest cricket club in India, the first one being the Calcutta. C. C. Marylebone C.C. and other overseas teams enjoyed playing at Chepauk because they found here the true "cricket climate". They were enchanted by the velvety green turf, the typical English county cricket pavilion and the pleasing landscape round the ground.

Forty-two years back, I stepped into Chepauk as a school boy to watch A.E.R. Gilligan's team play All Madras. Little did I dream that within six years I would have a chance to play a small part in the development of cricket in close association with the M. C. C. It was unthinkable that I would ever be invited to be a member of the M.C.C. latter on.

From 1934 to 1947 was the heyday of the British Government when the club got full support from the Governor of Madras, and from the large and influential British community. During this period the club played a dominant part in the organisation and development of Madras cricket. In particular, the four years 1944-1948 were the vintage years of Madras Cricket. C. P. Johnstone was President of both the M.C.C. and the M.C.A. during this period and contributed not a little to the development of the game in Madras. After the retirement of Johnstone and the demise of Sir R. D. Richmond, Sir R. D. Denniston, H. P. Ward and A. F. W. Dixon the influence of M.C.C. on Madras cricket waned. When Test Cricket moved to the Nehru Stadium during the years 1952-'66, the importance of the club was considerably lowered. The return of cricket to Chepauk may augur the return of M.C.C.'s importance.

However, in spite of all the changes, it is refreshing to see the M.C.C. continuing to serve cricket, hockey, tennis, and squash and follow the great traditions of earlier years.

I am not quite sure if G. F. Vernon's team of 1892 and Lord Hawke's team of 1894 played at Chepauk. In 1902 however, Oxford University Authentics played at Chepauk against Madras Presidency XI. There was a great deal of rain before the match. Surprisingly Authentics winning the toss elected to bat and were skittled out for a paltry 83 runs. F. F. Tweedie of South Indian Railway bagged 8 wickets. Madras XI fared worse and were skittled out by Williams and Simpson Hayward. Simpson Hayward subsequently played for England against South Africa. In their second innings Authentics scored over 300 runs and their captain, F. H. Hollins was not out with 185. Madras lost the match by a big margin.

The point of greatest interest is that Madras was captained by C. T. Studd, who played for England against Australia at the Oval in the 1882 match which gave birth to the famous "Ashes". This historic match was won by Australia by 7 runs. C. T. Studd was such a great batsman that even that great bowler Spoffworth did not entirely enjoy bowling against him.

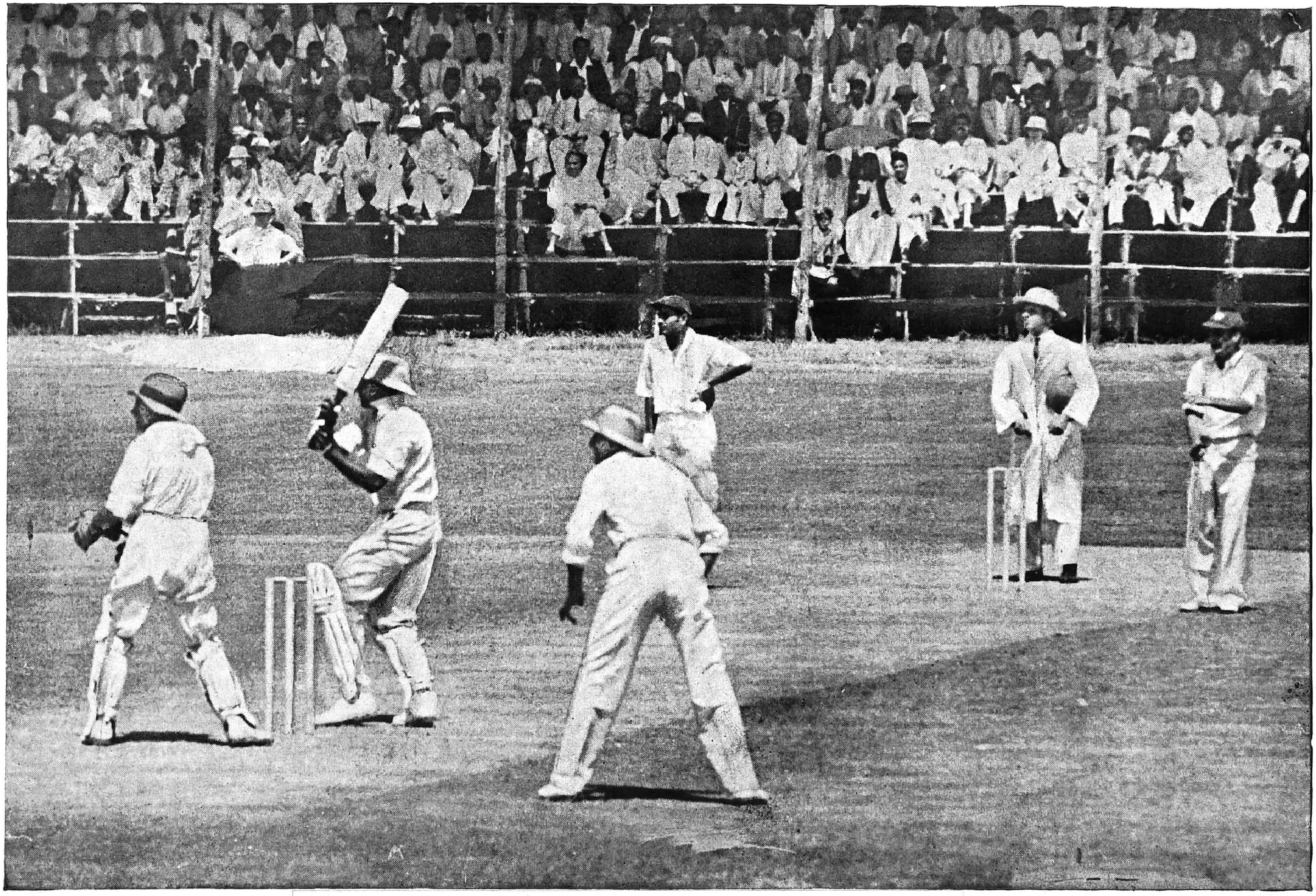
In 1908 the annual Presidency match bet-the Indians and Europeans was started. The late Buchi Babu Naidu, father of the famous Bhatt brothers, organised this match and was to captain the Indian team. Unfortunately, he died before the match was played and the late B. S. Ramulu captained the Indian team. This series became more and more popular and was played on Pongal holidays in mid-January. Madras cricket fans used to look forward eagerly to annual "Test" matches. Presidency matches however, lost their importance and faded away by 1950. M.C.C. chose the European team and the Madras United Club chose the Indian team and they shared the profits and losses if any. Presidency matches laid the foundation for the development of Madras cricket. One must pay tribute to the founders of this series, P.W. Patridge, R. K. Green, Sir R. D. Richmond, M. V. Buchi Babu Naidu and B. Subramaniam for their vision and organising ability.

It would be of interest to record that the father of the present captain of England, Cowdrey, played for Europeans in the Presidency match in (Oct. 16th) 1926. The first Marylebone Cricket Club team under A.E.R. Gilligan's captaincy in 1926-27 was played at Chepauk. This tour laid the foundation for international cricket tours to India and what is more helped in the founding of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. In 1931 the All Ceylon team played All Madras. This match will be long remembered for the great hat-trick bagged by young Gopalan. This was followed by the match against Vijayanagaram XI which included the immortal Hobbs and A. Sandham. The greatest disappointment of this match was when C. P. Johnstone who was in great form was bowled for a duck in both innings by Mahomed Ibrahim of Karachi. 1931 to 1948 were the glorious years of Madras Cricket with C. P. Johnstone, H. P. Ward, G. Aste, A. G. Penfold, M. V. Ramanjulu, M. Baliah, C. Ramaswami, M. J. Gopalan and A. G. Ramsingh dominating the scene.

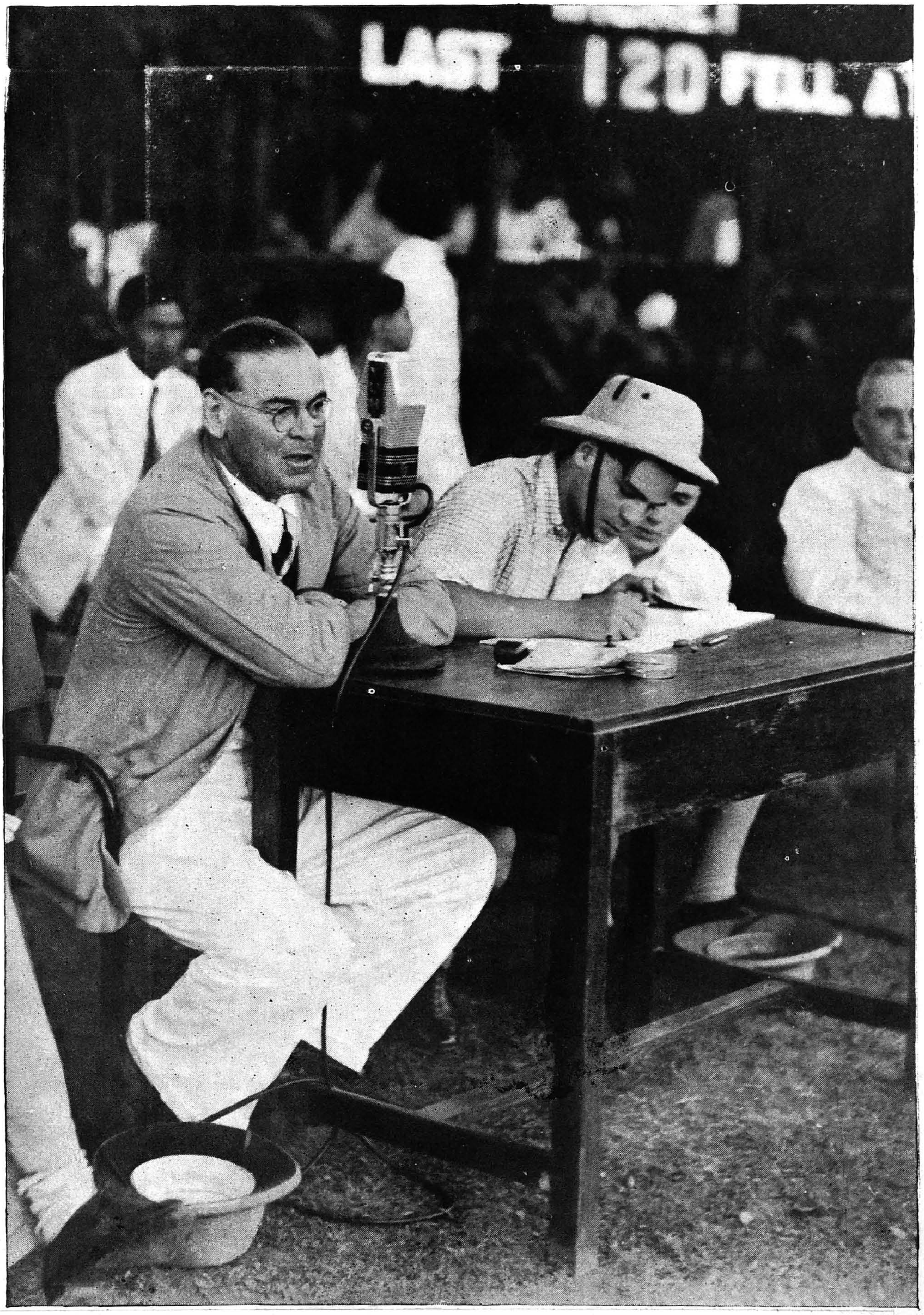
In the early stages Ranji Trophy matches ended in a loss as the gates were not enough to cover the expenses. The first three-day Ranji Trophy match between Madras and Mysore was over on the first day, Madras winning comfortably. Richmond had this match insured by Commercial Union Assurance Co. for Rs. 3000/-. The first day's collection was only Rs. 800/-. The Insurance Company were obliged to pay the balance of Rs. 2200/- to the M.C.C. Thereafter no insurance company ever came forward to insure. It would be of interest to the members to know that on two occasions, thirty M.C.C. members came forward to pay Rs. 100/- each to meet the losses on Ranji Trophy matches.

In 1934, the first test ever was played at Chepauk between M.C.C. captained by the great Jardine and India. The organisation of of this match was a problem and a challenge to the M.C.C. and the Indian Cricket Federation who organised this game. Richmond, rose to the occasion and produced a blueprint which was followed for two decades with minimum alterations.

Sir Daniel was a great organiser but was an exteremely difficult person to work with. The only two persons who could get along with him were Mr. B B. Odd of Gorden Woodrooffe and Sir Robert Denniston. In the organisation of this match Capt. Triggs, Passmore (Binny & Co.) and myself worked with Sir Daniel. There are two incidents which I would like to recall. The gates for the Test were manned by British tommies. On the eve of the Test, Sir Daniel assembled them and told them that no one should be admitted without a ticket or a badge. On the first day of the Test, Sir Daniel arrived at the Bells Road gate having forgotten his badge. The 'tommy' on duty stopped him. Sir Daniel said "Do you know whom you are stopping. I am the President of the M.C.C. and M.C.A." The tommy saluted and said "My instruction are not to admit anybody without a ticket or badge". Sir Daniel ran up to the Madras Club, fetched his badge and was back at Chepauk. We all thought that this tommy was in for a drubbing. Instead



Amarsingh hooking to leg—Jack Ryder's team *vs*. India.



R. D. Denniston doing a Commentary on a cricket match being played on the M. C. C. ground.

Sir Daniel sent through the butler two extra bottles of Becks beer to the tommy which gesture was greatly appreciated. At the banquet for both the teams a plan for dinner was drawn up strictly according to protocol. Sir Daniel was a great stickler for this. Mr. W. W. Ladden, Mayor of Madras turned up and his name was not in the plan as he had not sent in his R. S. V. P. Sir Daniel was furious and thought I had bungled. Mr. Ladden quickly disappeared by the butler's staircase to avoid embarrassment. Mr. Ladden, the gentleman he was, sent a letter next day to Sir Daniel saying that he had not posted his R.S.V.P. which was lying on the Mayor's table and conveying his sincere apologies. Sir Daniel made amends by inviting me to tea the following Sunday.

Lord Tennyson's team played at Madras in 1937. The Indian team beat them in the unofficial Test at Chepauk. An Englishman went into the dressing room and told Lord Tennyson that he had not tried hard but had made a gift of the match to Indians. His Lordship resented this remark and was infuriated. The club bar those days was the long room of Madras Cricket. One could always hear people saying—Con said this, HP said that, and this would echo and re-echo upto the rafters of the club ceiling, And certainly His Lordship was held in high esteem and any insult to him was thought an insult to the club. At the banquet at Chesney Hall, Lord Tennyson replying to the toast said "Indians won deservedly and only "rats" will say we did not try hard", This remark was greeted with an ovation the like of which I have never heard before or after. The gentleman who made that remark was also present and I can well understand his predicament. It should not be forgotten that liquor flowed plentifully and bountifully before and after dinner. In those days, prohibition was of neither heard of or dreamt of.

Jack Ryder's team of Australian cricketers played at Chepauk in 1938. The M. C. C. were due to tour India in the cold weather of 1939 but this was cancelled due to the outbreak of hostilities between U. K. and Germany on 3rd September 1939. In 1944, C. P. Johnstone was elected as President of the Madras Cricket Association, an honour which he so richly deserved. Johnstone went on home leave in 1945 where he organised the tour of Australian cricketers under Lindsay Hasset. From 1948 to 1952 many overseas teams played at Chepauk. Then there was a break when Test Cricket went to the Nehru Stadium. Once again Test Cricket returned to Chepauk in 1966 when the West Indies played India in the final Test.

For all representative matches played on the M. C. C. grounds, Test, Ranji Trophy and other exhibition matches, the M. C. C. were entitled to a nett profit of 20%. Test matches were a gala occasion for the members. There was a full attendance and the club made a sizeable income from lunches, drinks, etc. The 20% nett profit was a windfall for the club funds. Even the Test cricketer was given two complimentary tickets. Upto 1944 "girl friends" of overseas cricketers never came and sat along with the players in the pavilion. The West Indian cricketers brought their girl frinds to the pavilon. The diehards of the Club expressed their displeasure at this to me. For diplomatic reasons this had to be condoned.

The club secretaries those days used to be only bachelors. The only privilege they enjoyed was that they got liquor at cost price. At the suggestion of the then Governor of Madras, Indians were admitted as members in the late thirties. The Rajah of Chettinad, Dr. P. Subbarayan, The Yuvaraja of Pithapuram and V.R.Lakshmi Ratan were the first batch of Indian members. Lord Erskine, Sir Arthur Hope and Sir Archibald Nye, successive Governors of Madras, gave full support to the club. Mr. G. W. Lockyer the first British Deputy High Commissioner at Madras took a living interest in the club. H. E. Sir Arthur Hope was a great supporter of cricket and a good patron of the bar. I remember Mrs. Thomson, who looked after the garden and the lawn before the pavilion. At the suggestion of Sir

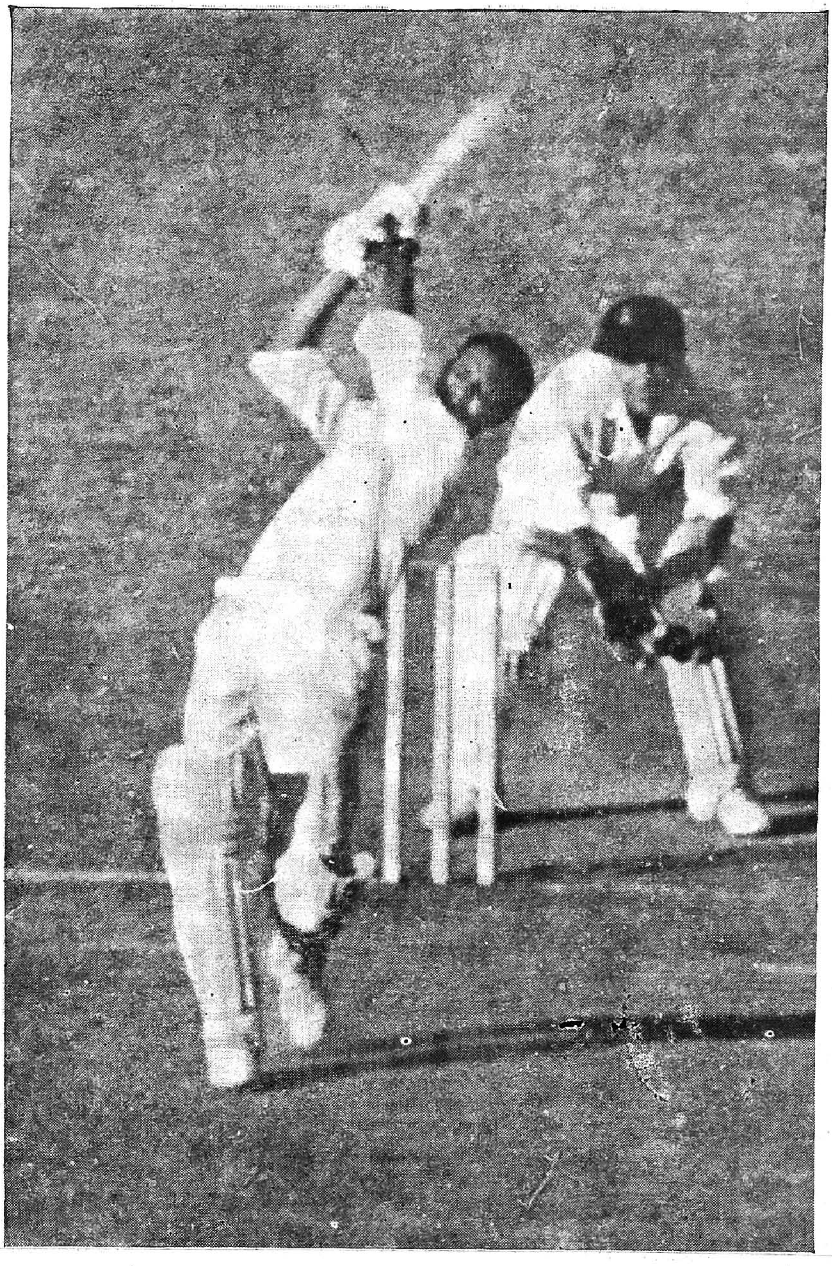
R. D. Denniston school boys were let in free at 4 P.M. on the last day of a Ranji Trophy match. In this match, Ramsingh was responsible for a sensational victory for Madras. The school boys rushed to garland Ramsingh and in this attempt they broke a few flower pots and damaged the lawn. Mrs. Thomson prompty sent a bill for Rs. 200/- to the M.C.A. for the damage caused. Sir Robert when he heard of this, sent a cheque for Rs. 200/- to the M.C.C. Such a great gentleman and sportsman "Denny" was.

I would like to record my impressions of a few whom it was my privilege to work with. Sir Daniel Richmond was a typical Englishman of the Victorian era who brooked no argument or difference of opinion. His blood-red eyes seemed to say "I am Sir Oracle. If I open my lips, let no dog bark". Sir Robert Denniston was a typical member of the aristocracy with a generous heart and a gift for friendship. He was a humorous speaker and a writer of chaste English. Literally he was the Father Santa Claus of the club and gave bountifully to all. His greatest service to Madras cricket was the founding of Eccentrics along with Arthur Dixon. 'Denny' was at his best at the club bar and he did not think much of those who could not join him at drinks. H. P. Ward though he had a cold exterior had the heart of a child. His knowledge of cricket was profound and as a captain, I thought he was a shade better than Johnstone. A. F. Dixon, I. C. S. was a Rowing Blue but his interest in cricket was second to none. I have never come across another Englishman or Indian who indentified himself with cricket so fully and whole-heartedly.

Conrad Powel Johnstone bestrode Chepauk like a colossus from 1934 to 1948. He was my idol as a cricketer and my ideal as a man. He was the most orthodox cricketer that has played at Chepauk portraying all that was best at Cambridge and Kent. Johnstone was a typical Englishman, shy, modest, graceful and dignified. He was always concious of his education at Rugby and at Cambridge. His skill at cricket and golf are well-known. He was an enthusiastic player at tennis and hockey. Few persons, know that at Calcutta he won the Members Plate in the Gymkhana Races riding 'Long Tom'. In his farewell match in 1948, at the age of 52 he scored an elegant century against Nungambakkam Sports Club in the M. C. A. League. Many may not know that Johnstone was one of those who helped to found the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The efficiency of a club depends largely on the staff. I would like to pay my tribute to the three 'M's of the club, Munuswamy, Mariadoss and Muthiah, two of whom are no more. I have never come across a more devoted and clever groundsman than Munuswami. He could prepare any pitch that C.P.J. or H.P.W. wanted. How this unlettered man could produce this was beyond me. He served the club faithfully for over fifty years. Mariadoss, chief butler, also served the club truly and faithfully for fifty years. He was very polite, patient and well behaved. His loyalty to the club and all members was phenomenal. Muthiah, Manager, who served the club for thirty years will be long remembered. His sincerity and commonsense helped him to succeed in his difficult job. His premature death is a great loss to the club.

As an old member and a sincere well-wisher, I wish the club and its members good luck and success in sports in the years to come. The M. C. C. has 120 years of distinguished service to sports to its credit and may its future be brighter and better.



India *vs*. W. Indies (Third Test), 1966. Sobers hitting a mighty six off Chandrasekhar. The ball sailed over the Commentators' Box.

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Chepauk Chronicle

By T. M. SRINIVASAN

★

The Englishman's home, it is said, is his castle and in foreign lands, the Englishman's home is his club and it is in the club that he has endeavoured to preserve sacred and inviolate his insularity. Every club dotted over various parts of the globe which used to be coloured red in our maps at school was therefore a little England. The M. C. C. was also originally one such institution founded by a handful of Englishmen who wished to shut out the alienness that surrounded them. The club records date only from August 1848. However the club already appears to have come into existence even prior to that date in what is now the Island grounds in front of the Body Guard Lines.

Between 1848 and 1865, no attempt was made to fence any particular area for the club grounds. However, on March 13, 1865, a letter was written by Capt. H. C. Roberts, the then Honorary Secretary of the club, to the Chief Secretary to the Madras Government Hon'ble A. J. Arbuthnott, one of the club's oldest and staunchest supporters soliciting permission for the club to enclose by a movable fence, a piece of ground not exceeding 100 yds. by 80 yds. The request contained in that letter could not for certain reasons, be met and we find a letter of 3rd April 1865, from Lt. J. Pennywick, R.E. requesting that in the absence of permission to enclose the ground asked for in the Island grounds, would the Governor in council be pleased to allow the club to enclose a portion of the ground at Chepauk? The order on the above letter arrived on 20th April and was as follows.

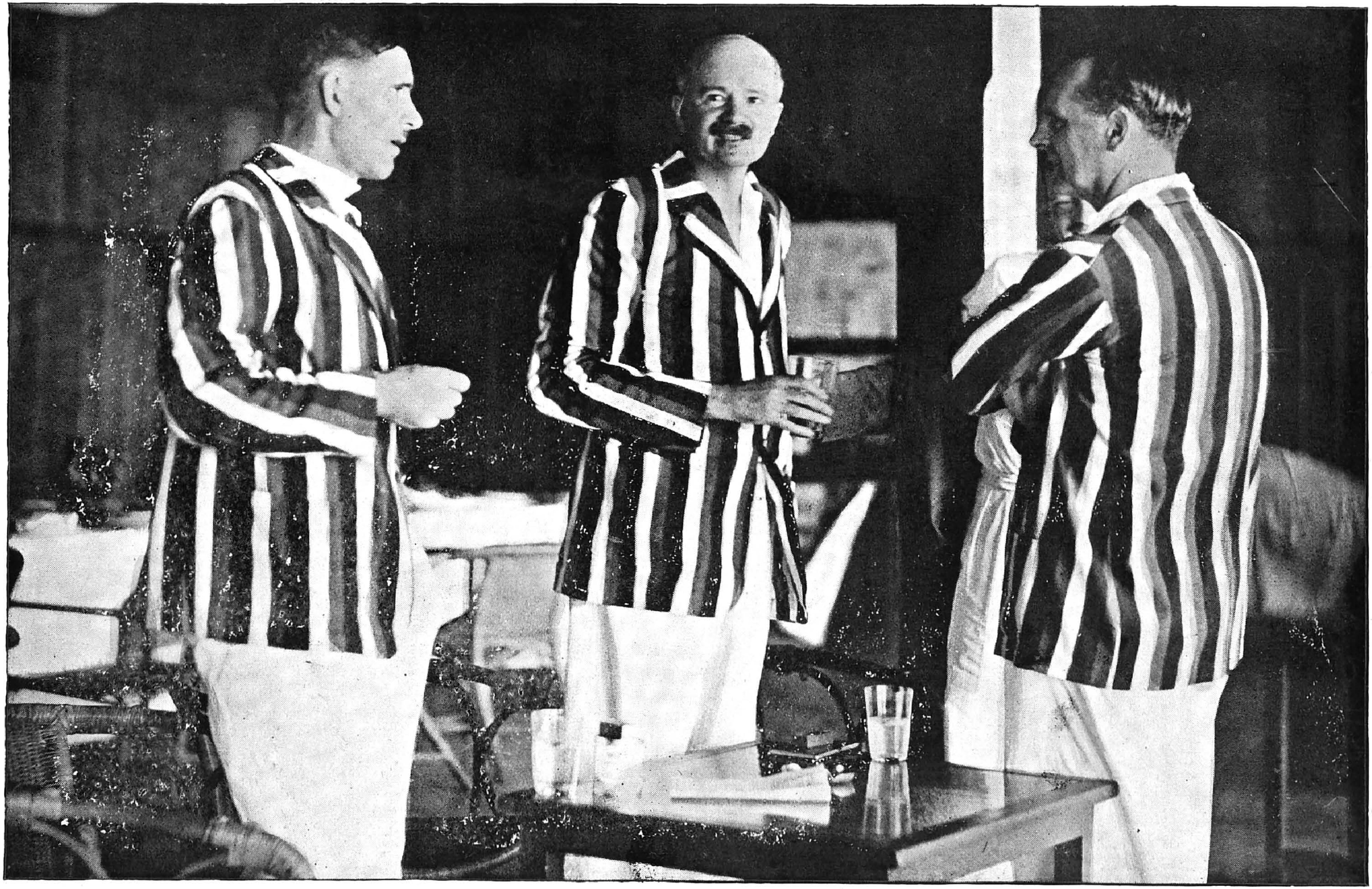
"The GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL authorises the members of the Madras Cricket Club to enclose a piece of ground on the Chepauk premises as a cricket ground...... a plan of the fence must be submitted to Col. Orr, for his approval."

The piece of the selected ground was duly appoved by Col. Orr, Secretary to Government in the Departments of Public Works and subscriptions were invited to meet the cost of laying the ground. Subscriptions were collected amounting to Rs. 786.13.6 and by the 20th October 1865, Rs. 730/- had been expended in levelling the ground. By 1865, we find the club located at Chepauk for the first time. A pavilion was erected in 1866. In 1876—77, the present Buckingham Canal interfered with the use of the Chepauk grounds and the club found itself relegated once more to the Island, where it remained until the end of the year 1869. That year the club returned to Chepauk and the pavilion was altered and made bigger by then while formerly it faced east, it now fronted the south but this change resulted in the glare of the sun throughout the day and watching a match from the pavilion on a hot summer's day was not an unmixed pleasure.

In 1889, a question arose as to the person or persons, liable to pay municipal assessment on the pavilion and this resulted in two orders from the Government:

"Orders will be issued in the Revenue Department declaring the tenure of the land used as a cricket ground viz ; that it is Government land granted free of rent or land tax to the Madras Cricket Club for a cricket ground and that if the club ceases to exist the land will revert to Government".

"The land in the occupation of the Madras Cricket Club is Government land granted free of rent or assessment for a cricket ground subject to reversion when it ceases to be used for that purpose".



A convivial picture of the late Sir Arthur Hope—then Governor of Madras—with H P. Ward and C. P. Johnstone in the club pavilion.

The above two orders form the title deeds of the club under which it enjoyed undisturbed possession till a few years ago.

In the year 1888, the pavilion built in 1866, suffered from the effects of a heavy cyclone and plans were drawn up to construct a new pavilion and at the end of 1891, the pavilion as it now stands on the south-west corner of the ground was consructed.

In this period, cricketing activities had also grown apace. Regular visits between Madras and Ceylon teams had already started from 1865 and in 1892 Mr. G. F. Vernon's team and in 1894 Lord Hawkes' team played at Chepauk. This was followed in 1902 by a visit of the Oxford University Authentics. The results of these matches are described in detail by other writers elsewhere in this brochure and we shall confine ourselves to recording the fact that in this last match Simpson Hayward, one of the great English county players whose record of more than 3,000 runs in county cricket stood for a long time till overtaken by Dennis Compton in 1947. Simpson Hayward also subsequently played for England against South Africa. In 1908 a match between Indians and Europeans was first started. These matches came to be known as Presidency matches and continued uninterruptedly till 1950. The first hockey tournament was also staged in 1901 and this was a precursor of the tournament that continued with a few breaks till the present day. By 1909, it appears that tennis also had assumed importance and regular tournaments were conducted though confined to the members of the Madras Cricket Club. It also appears that in addition to the nine hard courts, there were also two lawn courts the latter going out of use in 1929. Squash racquets also appears to have gained sound footing very early in this century for in the minutes of a committee meeting held at the pavilion on Monday the June 23, 1913, we find the following entry :

"M/s. Strouts, Sandiman and Deniston were elected on the handicapping committee and all arrangements in connection with the tournament were left in their hands"

Billiards was also a going activity by then.

Electric lights made their first appearance in the year 1913, for one finds in the minutes dated 5th August, the following entry.

"To consider tenders for the installation of electric lights in the club premises"

"RESOLVED that debentures for Rs. 2750 bearing interest at 6 1/4% to be issued and that General Body may be called to sanction their issue".

"RESOLVED that in the event of necessary sanction being obtained, the contract be given to M/s. Cromptons".

The sanction was obtained and the tender awarded to M/s Cromptons.

Though the Great war was not fought anywhere near Madras, its repurcussions were not lost on the patriotic and loyal members of the club who passed the following resolution on Monday the 6th December 1915.

"No person of German or Austro-Hungarian nationality shall be eligible for membership"

In 1916, the annual Tennis tournament was thrown open to Indians also and the tournament came to be known as the M.C.C. open tournament instead of the South India Tournament by which name it was previously known.

The practice of electing a Cricket Captain and Vice-captain seems to have been in vogue even from 1921 because we find in the proceedings of a committee meeting held on 14th September of that year, "the first item of business, appointment of a Cricket Captain and Vice-Captain for the current year"

The club grounds were still not enclosed and it was felt desirable by members particularly to

avoid the nuisance of stray cattle, to construct a boundary wall and a special General Meeting of the members of the club was held on the 13th March 1922 to consider the following :

"RESOLVED that a boundary wall and railing be erected around the club grounds as per plans already prepared and that the net proceeds of the Presidency cricket matches, and tennis and hockey tournaments be allocated each year to the wall account until liquidated".

After some discussion, Sir Gordon Fraser proposed that the resolution be amended by deleting the word "Presidency" and that the resolution should read as follows.

"That a boundary wall and railing be erected around the club grounds as per plans already prepared and that the net proceeds of the cricket matches, tennis and hockey tournaments be allotted each year to the wall account until liquidated"

The amendment was accepted by the chairman and having been seconded by Mr. F.H.A. Stephenson put to the vote of the members present and carried unanimously.

The first mention of a lease for the ground appears in 1922 in the proceedings of a committee meeting on 6th September.

"Telephone message from the Secretary, Board of Revenue Land, Revenue of the 5th September 1922 which reads as under"

"To The Honorary Secretry,

Ref: Your letter of 28-7-22 regarding lease of the Chepauk Cricket Ground.

Could you come and discuss the terms on the lease at any time convenient to you between 11 A.M. and 5 P.M. on any working day and also bring with you a copy of the Club Rules and Articles".

"RESOLVED that M/s W.H. Sell and E.R. Rose be requested to go and interview the Secretary, Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, to discuss the matter".

The results of these negotiations finally resulted in the lease agreement which held good till 1965".

The Merchants and Bankers tournament first makes its appearance in the year 1923, item 4 of Committee Meeting held on 8th August is as follows.

"To ask the opionion of the General Committee whether the challenge cup for the Merchant, Bankers and Services Tennis tournament should be purchased locally or from home".

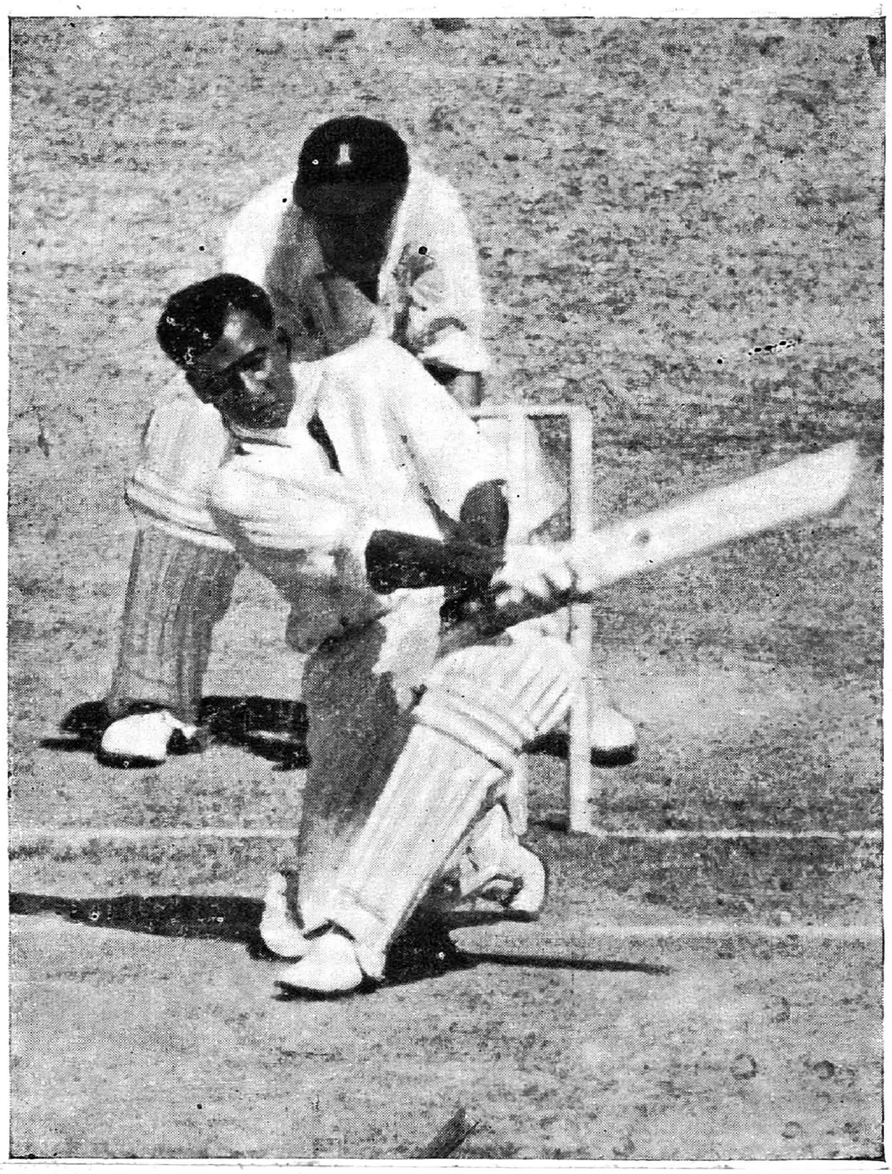
The lease negotiations had not concluded for item No. 2 of the committee meeting held on 14th November 1923 reads as follows :

"To consider the rough draft lease to be submitted to the Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Madras, in connection with the proposed lease of the ground now under occupation of the M.C.C."

"RESOLVED that P. M. Patridge and E.R. Rose should see the Secretary to the Government on the terms of the lease and to put forward the objections on the points mentioned and report again to the Committee."

The objections mentioned above consisted mainly of the lease amount of Rs. 1000/- annually demanded by the Government. The lease agreement was duly passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the club in '24 and the Government were also pleased to consider favourably the request of the club to scale down the rent payable and they passed on order to this effect.

"Rs. 500/- per annum for the first five years; Rs. 750/- per annum for the next two to five years; and Rs. 1000/- for the remaining ten years."



Third Test—India *vs*. W. Indies 1967

R. Kanhai, one of the world's leading batsmen hitting Prasanna for 4.

After the signing of the lease the club's activities in all directions increased considerably and the Chepauk grounds came to be a recognised cricketing centre for both Ranji Trophy as well as international matches. The records of the matches played are described in detail by other writers and I shall confine myself to describing only the tenor of the management of the club.

In 1926, there was criticism in certain local newspapers that the M.C.C. Hockey tournament had not been run on absolutely impartial line and that many local teams were not being admitted to the tournaments on grounds other than merit. When this was brought to the notice of the members, the reply of the committee was most spirited.

"With reference to the criticism which have appeared in certain papers regarding the management of the Madras Cricket Club hockey tournament, the M.C.C. committee wishes to state publicly that they will completely ignore in future all such criticisms. No serious-minded person thinks that the control of the hockey tournament is other than strictly impartial and fair to all parties concerned. The club committee is always ready to consider proposals and prospects regarding their hockey tournaments and other games which they endeavour to encourage from individual or club provided they are approached in proper manner."

It was from these Olympian heights the club was run.

The Indians started being admitted in very small numbers in the 1930 but the history of the club after 1930 is more intimately associated with the names of Sir R. D. Richmond, P. V. Patridge, in the later years C. P. Johnstone and H. P. Ward and Sir Robert Denniston. The dedication of Sir Daniel Richmond to the interests of the club have been emphasised by almost all the chroniclers of the history of the Club. It may also be noted that till January 1931, the Governor of Madras was Ex. Officio President of the club but even as early as 1926 there had been simmerings under the surface and the Military Secretary to the Governor has written to the Government expressing the desire of His Excellency to resign from the Presidentship of the club. However this decision was not given effect till February 1931 and the first president of the club appears to have been J. Mac Iver. He was succeeded by Sir R. D. Richmond and it was under Richmond that the affairs of the club appears to have gained considerable momentum. The finding of the Indian National Federation and the negotiations between the Federation and the M.C.C. form part of the minutes during the year 1932. Indian cricket was coming into its own and M.C.C. as the premier cricketing club of the city was naturally concerned in its development. The M.C.A. was to be an offshoot of the Indian National Federation. In 1933, the first test match to be ever played at Chepauk* came about and the organisation of this test match called upon the resources of the club. However, everything went off well and the organisation of this match was to be the fore-runner of the various other test matches and Ranji Trophy matches that were subsequently played on this ground.

1939 to 1945 were the war-years and the activities of the club naturally reflect the concern of the members and events overseas. But this was not allowed to interfere with the activities of the club. Sir Richmond continued as president of the club till 1940. On the 25th January, Sir R. D. Denniston took over as president of the club. The previous decade can well be described as the Richmond decade. Sir R. D. Denniston was to prove a worthy successor and the M.C.C. grew in importance under his presidentship.

Apart from the sporting activities, the custom of having various nights, to celebrate Cricket, Tennis and the other sports played in

**M.C.C. led by D. R. Jardine vs. India: The great Verity played in this match.*

the club was started in the early thirty's and has continued till the present day.

The club has always kept an open mind about the admission of ladies to the club. As early as 1922, the following amendment to Rule No. 2 of the rules reads.

"Lady Doctors, Lady Nurses and Ladies living independently of male relatives who are eligible to become members are eligible as candidates for election. They may also be invited by the committee to become Honorary Members without payment of entrance fee or subscription or on such other terms as the committee may determine"—carried unanimously.

And for the curiosity of the members, who are concerned with the rise in cost of living, I reproduce a resolution passed at a committee meeting held on Wednesday the 12th January 1916 at 6 p.m.

"It was resolved that the prices of the following drinks should be raised to take effect from 1st February '16.

	Old Rate	*Increased rate*
Brandy 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
Carlton Whisky 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
Johnny Walker Whisky 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
John Rover Whisky 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
Old Orkney Whisky 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
Black & White Whisky 1/2 peg	0 4 6	0 5 0
Stout—Qts.	0 13 0	0 14 0
Pts.	0 10 0	0 11 0
Cider—Pts.	0 8 0	0 9 0
Soda water-Large	0 1 6	0 1 9
Medium	0 1 0	0 1 6

I would like to conclude this note with an excerpt from the objects for which the club is established.

(a) To promote the following and any other pursuits, pastime, games and entertainments which the club may from time to time resolve to promote (viz) Cricket, Hockey, Lawn Tennis, Squash Racquets, Dinners, Balls, Dances, Concerts, Musicals, Theatrical and other entertainments, Billiards and Games of cards and to promote and hold alone or jointly with any other Association, Club or person, Lawn Tennis and other Meetings, Competitions. Tournaments and Matches and Gymkhanas and to offer, give or contribute towards prizes, medals and awards in connection with all or any of the objects of the club for the time being.

(b) To promote social intercourse amongst members of the club, their families and friends."

Whether the club has carried out these objects or not is for the members to judge.

Note:

I should like to express my grateful thanks to the invaluable information provided by Mr. J. D. Foster's framed note and the information supplied by Mr. V. Pattabhiraman and Mr. K. S. Ranga Rao.

Our modest president Mr. P. G. V. Mercer has done a considerable amount of research into the earlier minutes of the club and passed on the information to me. This also proved of immense assistance.

R. S. Modi batting against Australian Services XI—1945 during his knock of 203–Hassett is at silly mid-on.
C. S. Nayudu is the runner.

CHEPAUK HOCKEY

By P. D. CALAPPA

★

One necessarily has to go to the starting point to know what is what and Chepauk hockey was the begining of a new era of the game in the country. Without much of glamorous achievements, without many trophies in the cupboard, and even without much of recognition hockey has been popular for over 75 years. For an answer one has to turn to the Madras Cricket Club.

The first hockey match played on the Chepauk lawns was on a filled up lake whose surface was like silk. Madras realised over 75 years ago that good grounds are conducive to good hockey. For example the Lyons tournament was played on a bumpy surface. How could the best come out of it? It may be said irrespective of ground conditions, performances should stand out. Assuming that this is alright for assessing comparative merits, hockey of all games, needs the largest area of protected turf and the game is influenced considerably by the condition of the playing ground. Chepauk's pride right through has been its 'ground'.

It was not the 'tommies' who brought the game to Madras, as in most other places. The English executives of the late nineties wanted a summer game. They wanted a break from their main cricket season—Yes, for oiling the blades and mending the grass. During this breather, they had to decide on a game. Amongst Soccer, Rugger and Hockey, the last won the race at Chepauk. The reason was it could be played even by those past their youth.

In Chepauk, then was born an organisation for organising hockey as early as 1900. On Tuesdays and Fridays the chocolates and golds paraded the rich green. Even today, when in other tournaments postponements are a regular feature we have a regularity in cur playing programme at Chepauk. The tradition in Chepauk is a game on fixed days. This has cultivated spectators. This has encouraged a paying patronage, which is very essential to keep the game going. How religiously the succeeding generations have adhered to these principles can be seen even today when old-timers fret, fume and swear themselves blue when a posted umpire turns up late or gives the slip. In Chepauk, there is no player-hunting. One signs availablity in a register. Hockey is not for those to be cajoled into playing. Even when they have a surfeit of volunteers they all do not rush into the rectangle. Many sit and watch from the side-line. There is as much enjoyment in watching as in playing this game. Can you imagine when a big match is on at Chepauk, the members by selling guest tickets contribute as much as what the popular stands fetch? Yes, we keep the game going at Chepauk. Ours was the first of the tournaments—The South Indian Hockey Championship—to attract entries from near and far, in days when nobody would bother to go a long way to play after all a game lasting an hour.

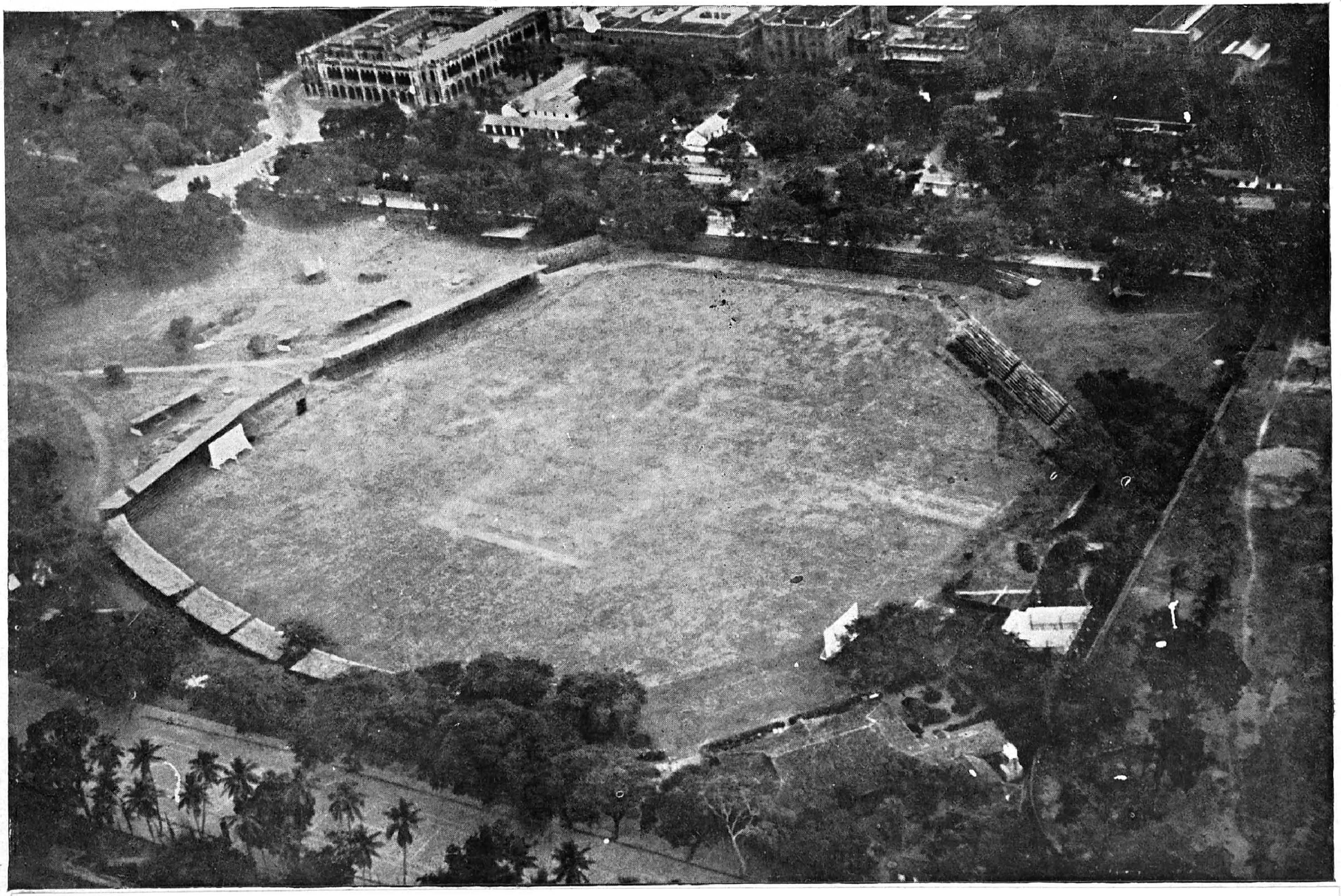
Ours was amongst the best many of our players being distinctive characters. We had G. G. King at goal, whose adiposity actually embraced the width of the goal posts. But our best, why everybody's, was R. C. Summerhayes—the Oxford Captain, who came to India in 1925 joining the then Burma Oil Company. He gave us, what we now call modern hockey. He introduced the shove stroke into the game. He exploited the wingman for the first time. He got past an opponent without actually dribbling. He brought into play the left thrust, the right cut and the lunge. More than all, he gave to the

game—M. J. Gopalan. This was at a time when Eric Penniger was not known outside his railway tracks. This was at a time when hockey was a hit and run game. Yes, the latest advocacy of some of us is to get back to this 'Stone Age'. He went to Bombay to sign the Memorandum of the Bombay Provincial Hockey Association. West and South have proud recollections of him. Then in the forward line, we had J. W. Chitty and Crawford at either wing, very fast and purposeful. We had V. S. Shiplay with a perpetual hanky round his forehead, who believed in air play to beat an opponent. Yes, carrying the ball on your stick is taboo only now. We had Hinton, who looked all the while lost in thought and caught many an unwary opponent napping.

We were a good side for not only did we have good players but we encouraged good opposition. It is a well established maxim that a good opposition alone can bring forth the best. We gave and took by an exchange of games. On the Chepauk field were born the greatness of Lakshman Rao and Rangaswamy (whose name is commemorated in the National Trophy), Bhatt and Ramu, breaking the clay on the ground with strong shots; Sivaswamy, Comet, Jerry Brown, Brother Price and Kesavan of the next brigade ; O'Hara and Francis at goals, Webber, Todd, Nainakannu, Masilamani and Aldridge at back ; Christian, Gopalan, Cullen, Ealing, Tremenhere, Aravamuthu, Mohd. Yakub, Bashyam and Peck in the half-line, Stephen D'Costa, Arul Doss, T. R. Narayanaswami, A. Padmanabha Naidu, Mir Ghulam Ali, Gilbert Blankley, Davenport, Almeda, Clapp, Murphy. Janardhanan, Chandrasekaran and D'Moreas in the forward line ; Ward and Ren Nailer breaking the goal posts, bars, boards and nets—all good men and true who would merit a place in any international side.

This is Chepauk's contribution to the game of hockey. Then came a lull in hockey at Madras. The leading tournaments were abandoned. M.C.C. had to content itself with the satisfaction of having given to Madras a plethora of hockey champions. The seeds got into other fields and have since sprouted in distant greens. But they all belong to the same strain–they are of the same grain. Madras is what it was, the masters of short passing, and slick stick work.

The Madras Cricket Club Tournament began in the year 1901, when the 2nd Bn. The Durham Light Infantry became the first winner of the tournament. The tournament was run regularly until 1951. During this long period there was only one break in 1905, but a longer break occurred between 1951 and 1964, when the tournament was again happily revived. The home team won this tournament in the year 1913 and 1924. The Telegraph Recreation Club registered the longest number of victories with six, four times in succession between 1930—1933. This is the rich tradition of hockey at Chepauk. Long may it grow.



An aerial view of the Chepauk Ground—note the profusion of trees surrounding the ground.

Another view from the air--this time the pavilion is discernible at the S. West corner of the Ground. See also the 2 Lawn courts right foreground.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

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V. M. MERCHANT :

One of India's greatest batsmen - regular opener for India in many Test matches both in India and abroad-was concerned with Mushtaq Ali in a stand of 205 for the opening wicket at Manchester in 1936 against England—a classical batsman whose orthodoxy is the delight of the purist.

I. ROSENWATER :

Irving Rosenwater is a cricket historian, former assistant - editor of "The Cricketer" (London) and first editor of "The Journal of the Cricket Society". He has contributed widely to a large variety of cricket publication, including "Wisden", and was assistant-editor of "The World of Cricket" (1966).

C. P. JOHNSTONE :

Cambridge and Kent and later skipper of Madras in the Ranji Trophy - sound left hand opening batsman and one-time President of both MCC and MCA.

R. S. MODI :

Former Indian Test player - middle of the order batsman among whose knocks will be remembered his 203 against Australian Services at Chepauk in 1945.

M. J. GOPALAN :

A great all - rounder who toured England with the Maharajkumar of Vijayanagaram - his performances with bat and ball for Madras are legendary-double international. Represented India in Hocky in which game he was a great centre - half.

C. RAMSWAMY :

A double international - represented India both in tennis and cricket - one of the famous Bhatt brothers - the youngest of them and selector of India's Test teams for many years.

V. PATTABHIRAMAN :

A great patron of the game - Vice - President of the Madras Cricket Association and English School Cricket Association—has donated many cups and particularly encouraged schoolboy cricket in India.

K. S. RANGA RAO :

One of those associated with the Board of Control for Cricket from its inception - 8 years Secretary of the Board - one of the earliest members of the M.C.C.

G. D. MARTINEAU :

Gerard Durani Martineau, born in Lahore, 1897, son of a Judge of Punjab High Court; maternal grandson of J. P. Warburton, C.I.E., Afgan by birth whose detective exploits are told in CONTROLLER OF DEVILS; Educated at Charterhouse and Sandhurst, attracted by the historical and romantic side of the game, he wrote verses, articles and book-reviews, principally for THE CRICKETER. Became a school master in 1923, at Lyme Rigis, where he met his wife. They retired there in 1949.

A. G. RAMSINGH :

Another great all-rounder, who along with M. J. Gopalan and C. K. Rangachari, was the backbone of the Madras side. A great master of spin bowling and a fine left - hand batsman-he has many good performances to his credit with bat and ball. His sons Kripal Singh and Milkha Singh have played for India.

V. S. HAZARE :

One of India's greatest all-rounders—he also captained the Indian team to England in 1952 and Indian team to West Indies in 1954—Modest and shy off the field—but a courageous and brave fighter in difficult situations on the field—in 1947 in Australia had the distinction of scoring two separate 100's in each innings against Australia.

P. N. SUNDARESAN :

A regular performer in Madras League Cricket who used to open the batting and bowling for MRC—at present cricket writer of of The Hindu.

BERTIE WIJESINHE :

Assitant Editor, Ceylon Observer—has played for Ceylon against Madras at Chepauk.

R. KRISHNAN :

India's greatest tennis player ever—only Indian to reach the semi-finals of Wimbledon which he did in 1960 and 1961—Seeded Fifth in Forest Hills in 1959—also ranked 3rd by Stephen Potter in World Tennis 1959 - winner of many awards including Padmabushan.

C. R. PATTABHIRAMAN, B.A., L.L.B. (Lond.) Barrister at Law :

President for eight years and now Patron, Madras Cricket Association, Madras; Vice-President, Board of Control for Cricket in India.

C. R. RANGACHARI :

Fastest bowler produced by Madras—also a very good field at close - in positions. Along with Gopalan and Ram Singh formed a formidable trio in Madras' performance in the Ranji Trophy.

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The Madras Cricket Club

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